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East Asia

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Japan

Iraqi Plan on POW's as 'Human Shields' Condemned

OW2201090491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0840 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Japanese condemns Iraq's reported decision to detain prisoners of war (POWs) at strategic locations likely to be targeted by bomber planes and missiles of the multinational forces, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"If that report is true, it is inhumane, an outrageous violation of the Geneva Convention, and unpardonable," said Press Secretary Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents. "The Government of Japan cannot but express its grave concern about this," Watanabe added.

The spokesman was referring to the Iraqi Government's announcement that it will move captured airmen of the multinational forces to important scientific, economic, and related facilities to be held as "human shields" against allied attacks.

The International Red Cross said in Geneva on Monday that Iraq's reported intentions would be in clear violation of Article 23 of the Geneva Convention, which says: "No prisoner of war may at any time be sent to or detained in areas where he may be exposed to the fire of the combat zone, nor may his presence be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations." But the Iraqi Government view, according to informed sources, is that the Geneva Convention does not come into play in this regard as "all Iraq is a combat zone for the Americans and no area is immune from their military operations."

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry officials said that police have been tightening security against possible Iraqi-inspired terrorist attacks in Japan. The ministry sources said, however, that Japan has no immediate plans to protest Iraqi Ambassador Rashid al-Rifai's remarks in a press conference Monday, in which he appeared to suggest that his government's call for Muslim attacks on U.S. interests worldwide includes those in Japan. "This we leave to the Muslims and other people everywhere," the envoy told reporters. "We leave it to them to do whatever they think is right."

U.S. Embassy officials would not comment on the remarks and said they were unable to confirm whether or not the U.S. Government has registered a message of concern with the Japanese Government.

Tokyo 'Considering' Sending SDF Planes to Gulf

OW1901082891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—The Japanese Government is considering sending Self-Defense Forces (SDF) transport aircraft to rescue refugees in the Middle East under what it calls an "emergency drill" mission, government sources said Saturday.

This would allow the government to act without fresh legislation under a broad interpretation of the SDF law, which does not permit the SDF any overseas missions but allows SDF craft and personnel to be used for drills, disaster relief and for scientific research in Antarctica.

Whether to send SDF members overseas is an extremely sensitive topic in Japan, whose constitution forbids the use or threat of force as a means of settling international disputes and bars the country from maintaining "land, sea and air forces."

A defense agency official, who asked not to be named, declined to comment on how the dispatch of SDF planes to the Persian Gulf would constitute a "drill," but said this is just one of many approaches being considered. He said government legal experts have not yet ruled on the proposal, but a leading scholar said the government is distorting article 100 of the SDF law, the key to the proposal.

Masayasu Hasegawa, a professor emeritus of constitutional law at Nagoya University, said the law's Article 100 was designed so non- SDF members could be trained using SDF craft, not to enable the SDF to operate overseas.

Last fall, the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, under pressure from Washington at the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, tried to pass a bill permitting the overseas dispatch of noncombatant military personnel as part of a "UN peace cooperation corps." The bill died in the Diet under heavy fire from the opposition camp, except the Democratic Socialist Party.

During an emergency session of the Diet on Friday, leaders of the Japan Socialist Party, Komeito and the Japanese Communist Party all opposed Kaifu's call for studying the dispatch of SDF transport planes to the Middle East on a refugee transport mission.

Takako Doi, leader of the JSP, the No. 1 opposition party, slammed the latest proposal Saturday. "If troops are sent overseas through this extralegal means, Japan cannot be called a constitutional state," she said.

The government sources said the SDF has used Article 100 before to send aircraft overseas. They cited the ferrying of Japanese currency to Okinawa to replace dollars just before the island reverted to Japan in 1972.

The sources admitted that the SDF aircraft may become a possible target of Iraqi attacks if they are sent to the Middle East. The sources said SDF personnel, if sent to the Middle East, would work only in refugee relief service and not transport military supplies or food for the multinational forces. They would be under the command of the Japanese Defense Agency director general, not the allied forces, the sources said.

Their dispatch for refugee work would take place as soon as the Geneva-based office of United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) officially asked Japan to do so. Japan has not yet received such a request, the sources said.

Japan would send C-130 transport planes of the Air Self-Defense Force if everything goes smoothly.

The sources said the government would put priority on ensuring the safety of the SDF personnel. They said flight routes would be decided through negotiations between UNDRO and the Foreign Ministry and that dangerous routes would not be accepted.

Defense Agency sources said it would be necessary to have U.S. military airplanes escort the Japanese SDF aircraft.

To Ask Airlines for Assistance

OW2101061491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0558 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The government will ask two major private airline companies Monday afternoon to make their aircraft available to rescue refugees in the Persian Gulf region, Transport Minister Kanezo Muraoka said.

Japan Airlines Co. (JAL) and All Nippon Airways Co. (ANA) have informed the government unofficially they would comply with the request if the security of the airplanes can be guaranteed, Transport Ministry officials said.

Muraoka said the airplanes would be sent to Cairo, which he said remains safe from the effects of the Gulf war. He also said the planes will be chartered by the government, and the government will pay the war insurance premiums on them.

The minister said Japan would like to be ready when the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an intergovernmental nonpolitical humanitarian group based in Geneva, asks it to dispatch airplanes.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said the same day that the government is still studying the possibility of using Self-Defense Forces (SDF) planes to transport refugees.

The Diet has been discussing whether to send SDF aircraft to the Persian Gulf region to rescue the refugees. The issue is sensitive because Japan's war-renouncing Constitution forbids the use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

The Foreign Ministry said Monday that about 66,000 refugees have fled Iraq and Kuwait to neighboring countries since the war broke out last Thursday, and some 100,000 to 120,000 Egyptians and Asians are waiting to be evacuated from Jordan.

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) informed the Foreign Ministry that 45,000 people, including 8,000 Egyptians waiting to return home by sea, have fled from Iraq to Jordan.

The UNDRO also said 8,000 Iraqis have taken refuge in Iran and that 13,300 people have returned to Egypt from Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia since the beginning of the year.

Some 11,000 Indians are leaving Iraq for Iran and 60 workers from Bangladesh and Sudan have fled from Iraq to Turkey, it said.

Consulate in Indonesia Threatened Over Gulf Aid

OW2201120691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 22 KYODO—The Japanese Consulate General in Medan, north Sumatra, has received a letter threatening the mission would be destroyed if Japan does not stop providing assistance to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf, a Japanese Embassy spokesman in Jakarta said Tuesday.

The letter, received Monday, was apparently from an individual not representing any organization, and police said they do not regard the threat as serious.

Medan Consul General Toshihiro Kojima, however, has warned the 150 Japanese living there to watch the situation carefully, the spokesman said. The embassy has also urged the 5,000 Japanese residents of Jakarta to be cautious.

Finance Minister Hashimoto Pledges More Gulf Aid

OW2101000891 Tokyo KYODO in English 2346 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] New York, Jan. 20 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto assured U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on Sunday that Tokyo is willing to provide more aid to U.S.-led forces fighting Iraq, a Japanese official said.

Hashimoto told Brady during a two hour meeting at a New York hotel that Japan "must do its share" in contributing to the U.S.-led military drive to force Iraq out of Kuwait, the official said.

The official, speaking at a press briefing on condition of anonymity, quoted Brady as saying Japan's financial assistance to the multinational forces is "very important." But neither Brady nor Hashimoto mentioned any specific figures, the official said.

So far Japan has pledged to contribute 2 billion dollars to the multinational force arrayed against Iraq, and another 2 billion dollars in aid to frontline nations seriously affected by the Gulf crisis.

Hashimoto and Brady also discussed foreign-exchange and stock market movements since the outbreak of the Gulf war and affirmed cooperation in ensuring stability in the financial markets, the official said.

Such cooperation, the official said, will be reflected in a communique to be issued Monday by the finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations, which were beginning a two-day meeting in New York on Sunday.

The G-7 comprises Japan, the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada.

On other topics, Hashimoto and Brady exchanged views on the issue of aid to the Soviet Union and exchange rates, the Japanese official said, but did not elaborate.

The official did say that Sunday's attack by Soviet troops on Latvia's police headquarters may stop G-7 finance officials from talking positively on financial support for the Soviet Union.

In Riga, the capital of the Baltic Republic of Latvia, Soviet Black Beret Interior Ministry troops attacked the police headquarters, engaging in a gunfight in which four Latvians were reported killed.

The assault was the second on a Baltic separatist government in eight days, following the Soviet military crackdown in Lithuania earlier this month.

'Source' on Possible $10 Billion More in Gulf Aid

OW2101060091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The Japanese Government may provide as much as 10 billion U.S. dollars in fresh funds to support the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf and frontline countries whose economies are stricken by the war, a Foreign Ministry source said Monday.

The estimate came after U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady urged Japan on Sunday to provide additional financial contributions for the Gulf war effort.

The source said the U.S. has not mentioned any specific amount but the size of fresh financial assistance would be 1 trillion yen (some 7.5 billion dollars) for the war effort and another 2 to 3 billion dollars for support to the frontline countries affected by the war.

"The total amount that we have to consider would be 10 billion dollars (about 1.33 trillion yen) if additional support for the countries in the vicinity is included," the source said. He said the fresh aid funds would be in addition to the 2 billion dollars Japan pledged for the multilateral forces and another 2 billion dollars to help Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Some government officials and ruling Liberal Democratic Party leaders earlier said the sum would be 1 trillion yen including the earlier pledge.

The source said the precise sum would be based on calculations to be worked out between the Japanese and U.S. finance ministers or their deputies. The source also said the government will try to come up with a decision on the extra Gulf war outlays as soon as the government submits its budget bill for fiscal 1991 to the Diet on January 25. Part of the extra funds will be defrayed from a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, which ends on March 31, the source said.

A senior official of the ruling party who requested anonymity said Sunday the government is considering raising the taxes on tobacco and petroleum to finance the additional assistance to the U.S.-led multinational forces.

A Japanese official said Sunday that the U.S. has told the Japanese Government that the cost of the war against Iraq would be three to five times more than previously estimated 17 billion to 35 billion dollars for the fiscal year to September 30.

PLO Envoy to Tokyo Blames U.S. for Gulf War

OW1901055091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will make every effort to resolve the Persian Gulf war peacefully, the PLO representative to Tokyo, Bakr 'Abd al-Mun'im, said Saturday.

Al-Mun'im, speaking at a press conference, accused the United States of starting the war in defiance of global calls for peace. He also said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait should be linked to the Palestine issue, adding that peace in the Middle East will not be achieved if both issues are not resolved at the same time.

Asked about the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel, Al-Mun'im would not comment on the matter, and only stressed the need for the simultaneous settlement of both issues.

Government Not To Alter Aid Programs to USSR

OW2101104691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan will not alter its pledged relief and medical aid programs to the Soviet Union because of Moscow's military crackdown on the independence movement in the Latvian Republic in the Soviet Baltic region, the government spokesman said Monday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto commented on Japan's pledge to extend 14 billion yen in relief and loan aid to the Soviet Union when he met with reporters following a meeting between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and senior Liberal Democratic Party officials.

Sakamoto earlier told reporters that Japan was deeply concerned over the Soviet military action against the independence movement in the Latvian capital of Riga on Sunday when Soviet security forces stormed the Interior Ministry, killing four people and injuring nine others. Sakamoto said Kaifu has implied Japan-Soviet relations remain unchanged despite the worsening Baltic situation.

Japan hopes the Kremlin will resolve the Baltic problem by peaceful and democratic means and in the spirit of perestroyka, Sakamoto said. He said the Japanese Government hopes the Kremlin will maintain perestroyka, which he said is a key to improving relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Nakayama Outlines Topics for Meeting With Soviets

OW1901131691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Saturday that he will discuss with his Soviet counterpart Alexandr Bessmertnykh in Moscow on

Tuesday the question of stability in the Middle East after the end of the Persian Gulf war.

Nakayama also said he will express Japan's concern over the implications of the Soviet military crackdown in the secessionist Baltic republic of Lithuania, though Japan is not at the moment considering a halt to its humanitarian aid to the Soviets.

The foreign minister made the remarks in an interview in advance of his departure for the Soviet Union on Monday for a stay through Thursday.

Following their consultations on the war in the Persian Gulf, Nakayama indicated that he and Bessmertnykh may issue a joint statement calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions. He said the joint statement may also touch on their planned discussions "on the stability of the region" after the resolutions are realized.

Nakayama did not further describe the discussions on that subject other than to say they would encompass the Palestinian problem. It was unclear if he was referring to an international conference on peace in the Middle East, a delicate issue as Iraq has linked it to a possible pullout from Kuwait.

Asked if he will ask for more tangible Soviet support for the war efforts underway, Nakayama said he will urge Moscow to contribute to the security of the Middle East region in line with the Security Council resolutions, but did not elaborate. Nakayama said he will press Japan's hope to conclude a peace treaty with the Soviet Union to put the two countries' relations onto a sound footing.

The peace treaty issue is closely intertwined with Japan's claims to four islands off its northernmost island of Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

Nakayama said he also wants to be able to set a more precise timetable for President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan, provisionally set for mid-April. He said he wants the Soviet Government to "make a decision" that would enable Gorbachev's visit to be an occasion for a breakthrough in bilateral relations.

The reference was believed to be to a Soviet decision to return the disputed islands to Japanese sovereignty in return for a normalized relationship, including full-fledged economic cooperation.

On the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania on January 13, Nakayama said, "I intend to convey Japan's feeling of great regret at the methods employed, that being the introduction of troops." He said that while Japan is not planning to halt its aid to the Soviets to protest the crackdown, "the Japanese Government intends to closely watch the developing situation."

Hinting at Japanese concern over the Soviet Government's commitment to reform, Nakayama said, "we have been supporting the progress that perestroyka and glasnost have been making under President Gorbachev's leadership," he said.

Departs for Soviet Union 21 Jan

OW2101025491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left here for Moscow on Monday morning on a four-day visit for talks with Soviet leaders.

He is due to have talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on Tuesday and President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday.

Nakayama will return to Japan on Thursday.

Arrives in Moscow

OW2101143791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Moscow on Monday for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and new Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Nakayama was welcomed at a Moscow Airport by Bessmertnykh and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev.

On Tuesday, Nakayama and Bessmertnykh are scheduled to have two rounds of talks to discuss bilateral and international affairs, including the Persian Gulf war and the Soviet military crackdown on the independence movements in the Baltic republics.

Nakayama is due to meet Gorbachev on Wednesday, according to Japanese officials traveling with him.

Nakayama will propose to Bessmertnykh the issuing of a joint Japan-Soviet statement on the Gulf situation, the officials said.

The Japanese foreign minister will express concern over the Soviet military crackdown in the Baltic republics and warn that the possible expansion of the use of force against the secessionist movements would adversely affect Japanese economic assistance to the Soviet Union, the officials said.

In a series of talks with Soviet officials, they said, Nakayama wants to set a specific date for a visit by Gorbachev to Japan tentatively scheduled in April and to urge a political decision by the Soviet leader on the territorial dispute over the four Soviet- held islands off Hokkaido.

The four islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II have been a stumbling block to full bilateral relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Spokesman Notes Concern Over Events in Latvia

OW2101041691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan is deeply concerned over the Soviet military action in the Latvian capital of Riga to put down the independence movement there, the government's spokesman said on Monday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told reporters at the prime minister's official residence that Japan deeply regrets that the Soviet Union took military action against yet another Soviet Baltic republic on Sunday, following the recent use of Soviet troops in Lithuania.

Japan calls on the Soviet Union to stop all military actions against the Baltic republics, Sakamoto said. He said Japan strongly hopes the Kremlin will resolve the Baltic problem by peaceful and democratic means.

Soviet troops seized the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga on Sunday night after a fierce gun battle in which four people were reported killed and nine others injured.

Sakamoto's statement followed an exchange on the Baltic issue at Narita International Airport between the Foreign Ministry's European Affairs Bureau Director General Nagao Hyodo and the Soviet Embassy's Charge d'Affaires Yuriy Kuznetsov.

Speaking just prior to Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's departure on a four-day official visit to Moscow, Hyodo reiterated Japan's regret at the repeated use of force in the Baltic states and called for peaceful means of resolving problems there.

Kuznetsov said his government instructed him to tell Japan that the Soviet Union finds foreign criticism of internal Soviet affairs inadmissible. Such intervention, he said, "can only aggravate the situation and bring about consequences that nobody desires."

Kuznetsov said the Soviet leadership has repeatedly stated its determination to resolve even "the most radicalized" domestic problems through "political means." He said all possible measures have been taken to ensure that situations similar to that which led to bloodshed in Lithuania will not recur, either in that republic or in other regions of the country.

The military crackdown in Lithuania last week reportedly left 14 dead and over 200 injured.

Kuznetsov said the government has been exercising "maximum restraint and patience up to the last minute" in the face of "a trampling of constitutional order, violations of the basic human rights of the people, and ethnic discrimination."

LDP Member Briefs Kaifu on Talks With Li Peng

OW2101111691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Chinese Premier Li Peng has expressed understanding of Japan's nonmilitary contribution toward resolving the Persian Gulf crisis, a ruling Liberal Democratic Party member who returned from China said Monday.

Li, however, said China and Southeast Asian countries would become sensitive if Japan acts militarily in violation of its constitution, according to Shoichi Nakagawa, chairman of the LDP's Special Committee on Youth.

Nakagawa visited China from Thursday to Sunday at the invitation of a youth organization. He briefed Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on his visit at his official residence on Monday.

Nakagawa told Kaifu that Li said China would not be offended by Japanese contributions to resolving the crisis if they are in accordance with the charter of the United Nations and the war- renouncing Japanese Constitution.

Under its constitution, Japan renounces war as a sovereign right of the Nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

Since the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces on August 2 last year, Japan has extended 2 billion dollars to help the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf and has agreed to provide another 2 billion dollars in loans and other forms of aid to the frontline nations of Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan. It is discussing additional financial contributions.

China and other Asian countries expressed concern about Diet deliberations last autumn on the government-proposed United Nations Peace Cooperation Bill which would have enabled the sending of Japan's Self-Defense Forces personnel overseas for peace-keeping missions. The bill was killed after it failed to win support of opposition parties.

Nakagawa also conveyed to Kaifu a message from Li saying he appreciates Japan's action in lifting economic sanctions against China imposed after the Chinese Government's military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Li also said Beijing is looking forward to Kaifu's visit to China expected in early May.

North Korea

South Criticized for Putting Forces on Alert

SK1901063991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0021 GMT 19 Jan 91

[NODONG SINMUN 19 January commentary: "Declaration of a War Structure Aimed at Strengthening the Military Dictatorship"]

[Text] Just as war has broken out in the Gulf region against Iraq, the South Korean ruling bunch has been making some unusual moves.

On 17 January, when war broke out in the Gulf region, traitor No Tae-u summoned an emergency National Security Council meeting and babbled about someone's provocation; ordered the Armed Forces to enter an emergency defense posture; and also ordered the police and related departments to be on emergency alert to maintain public peace and security.

The puppet Defense Ministry hastily called an emergency meeting to deal with this matter themselves, and ordered all company commanders and higher-ranking commanders to stay at their positions, thus ordering them to be on special alert. It also decided to establish an overall system in which the Joint Chiefs of Staff Headquarters would run an integrated situation room to control operations, information, and logistics. It is saying that this is to prepare for some unexpected event.

It is also expected that the puppets, along with the U.S. Forces that occupy South Korea by force, will go into a state of defense readiness, named Defcon 3.

According to orders of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ring, U.S. troops stationed in South Korea have entered a state of combat readiness on the pretext of preventing some kind of terrorist act, and the puppet Army has entered into a mobilized readiness posture in the areas of the military demarcation line and coastal areas. The suppressive forces, including the police, have been ordered to suppress the people. In a single word, the No Tae-u ring has driven South Korea into an emergency wartime structure.

The Gulf War has started under the name of operation "Desert Storm" but this war is being carried out millions of ri away from Korea, and there is not so much as a spark of fire flying into South Korea.

From the early part of this year, we put forth to South Korea peace proposals such as the adoption of a nonaggression declaration and initiated the idea that this year be a year of detente and peace, and a year of harmony and unity.

Nevertheless, for some reason, traitor No Tae-u is running amok like a cow on fire, running along the riverside, and he is stirring up a commotion. He has even declared an emergency wartime structure, thus kicking up a racket.

This situation is too grave to merely pass over. The unusual moves by the No Tae-u ring are undoubtedly to become a military dictatorship openly, by taking advantage of the Gulf War. This is a criminal maneuver to settle the current crisis in its rule and to continue its prolonged one-man rule.

Currently in South Korea, mass struggle by the youths, students, and people to achieve independence, democracy, and reunification is bringing about a great upsurge rapidly.

Reports by home and foreign news agencies openly hint that the No Tae-u regime is on a precipice and that it will be difficult to maintain its regime until this spring.

Given this kind of situation, the No Tae-u ring is making the Gulf War a golden opportunity and under the pretext of the threat of an invasion of the South, it is creating a sense of war among the people and an atmosphere of terror. Also, under the pretext of the emergency alert to maintain public peace and security, it is obliterating the patriotic reunification democratic forces and is trying to carry out the local autonomy elections without difficulty through the method of further whirling the bayonet of the military fascist dictatorship.

This kind of commotion by the No Tae-u ring is purposely aggravating North-South relations and is a criminal maneuver to provoke a war to invade the North.

Under the arbitration of the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean puppet clique has not accepted even one of our repeated rational peace initiatives; is aggravating the tense situation on the Korean peninsula; and is maneuvering openly to increase the danger of war. This is well known all over the world.

The puppets are talking about peace and the end to the cold war, but this is a lie. Making the U.S. imperialist aggressors in South Korea stay in South Korea and working to achieve the ambition of unification through a victory over communism with them is the true intention of the South Korean puppets.

For the South Korean puppets to refuse to adopt the nonaggression declaration in the North-South High-Level Talks shows how much they are filled with fervor to invade the North.

Because they harbor this kind of plan, the South Korean puppets are once again avoiding our peace and reunification proposals and are only adhering to North-South confrontation. Also, from the start of the new year they have been holding war exercises every day with the U.S. imperialists, and are planning to carry out the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in the near future.

The South Korean puppets ordered a special alert awareness of the Armed Forces and entered into a posture to invade the North as soon as the Gulf War broke out, while talking about the danger of an invasion of the South, because this is a concrete expression of their ambition to invade the North.

The military commotion by the No Tae-u ring in taking advantage of the Gulf War is in reality a sign that they are rejecting all dialogue, peace, and reunification with us and a grave criminal act intentionally aggravating the tense situation on the Korean peninsula and increasing the danger of war.

We can also predict that, using the opportunity of the world attention focusing on the Gulf region, the No Tae-u ring, with the U.S. imperialist aggressors, may move to carry out a war to invade the North.

Our nation of the North, South, and overseas will under no circumstances forgive the criminal maneuvers of the No Tae-u ring which are aimed at strengthening the military fascist dictatorial system in South Korea and at further aggravating North-South relations by using the Gulf War.

The military fascist dictatorship cannot be a way out for the South Korean ruling bunch and the war to invade the North is the road to the puppet's destruction.

The South Korean authorities must not pursue confrontation, an aggravated tense situation, and war, but rather must move toward the road of dialogue, detente, and reunification, and must lift the alert posture and stop suppressing the people.

S. Public 'Strongly Protests' Sending Team

SK1901104391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 19 Jan 91

["Dispatch of 'Military Medical Team' to Gulf Opposed in South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—The South Korean public is strongly protesting against the No Tae-u's puppet clique's criminal decision to send "a military medical team" to the Gulf, joining in the U.S. imperialists' aggressive and belligerent moves.

More than 1,000 students affiliated with the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils at a joint meeting branded this step of the authorities as "involvement in the imperialist war which has nothing to do with the interests of the nation."

Medical students in Seoul in a demonstration on January 15 urged the authorities to reject the U.S. demand for troop dispatch and a share of cost "in aid," condemning the dispatch of a military medical team as "a second troop dispatch to Vietnam."

Earlier, on January 14, students of different universities in Seoul held a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy when they swarmed there to hand over to it a letter protesting the dispatch of the "military medical team" to the Gulf.

The coalition for national democratic movement called a press conference on January 16 urging the United States to immediately withdraw its demand for a war fund in aid and troop dispatch pressure on South Korea.

The Party for Peace and Democracy, the Democratic Party, the Popular Party and other South Korean opposition parties also resolutely oppose the dispatch of the "military medical team" to the Gulf.

The Party for Peace and Democracy in a commentary resolutely opposed the dispatch of the "military medical team," contending that it is most probable that the dispatch will lead to a dispatch of combat troops.

No Incites Conflict by Supporting U.S. Forces

SK1901155591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 19 Jan 91

["CPRF [Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland] Denounces No Tae-u Group for Inciting North-South Confrontation With the Outbreak of Gulf War"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] on January 19 issued the following statement denouncing the row started by the No Tae-u group against the North with the provocation of a war of aggression against Iraq by the U.S. imperialists: The South Korean puppets are now taking very ill-boding moves after the outbreak of a war in the Gulf.

As already reported, the traitor No Tae-u called an "emergency security meeting" as soon as the U.S. imperialists provoked a war of aggresion against Iraq on January 17, at which he raised a hue and cry over "a period of vacancy in security" and "possibility of provocation" by someone and ordered "a posture of emergency alert operation" to the whole army and instructed to the whole police and related ministries and agencies to enter into "an emergency security posture."

According to this, the puppet defense ministry convened a "meeting for emergency measures" and placed the officers of and above the rank of company commander of the puppet army "in a posture of emergency alert at the barracks", crying for "closer watch on the North," establishment of "an anti-air raid alert posture" and "wartime system."

The puppet police headquarters has reinforced the police force posted everywhere and is strengthening check and search and putting even reserve police in "a posture of emergency mobilisation" under the pretext of possibility of intensified anti-U.S., anti-war struggle by student activists and workers.

This row of the puppets under the pretext of the Gulf situation has plunged South Korea into a horrifying atmosphere of terror under a virtual "emergency wartime system."

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland sharply denounces the indiscreet row raised by the South Korean puppets, decrying the North, with the provocation of a war of aggression against Iraq by the U.S. imperialists in the Gulf, regarding it as an anti-national criminal act to deliberately increase tensions and lead the situation to the brink of war on the Korean peninsula and a premeditated reactionary offensive to repress the patriotic forces for reunification and democracy and put fresh muscles into the military fascist repressive system in South Korea.

The South Korean puppets declared a "wartime system" the moment a war broke out in the Gulf," as if they had been waiting for it, and are rendering the situation strained, inciting North-South confrontation. This glaringly reveals their bellicose and splittist nature.

The war that broke out in the gulf thousands of miles away from South Korea cannot be a ground for the South Korean puppets to render the situation strained, hurling slanders at us.

As for us, this year, too, we have put forward new wide-range proposals and overtures for peace and peaceful reunification of the country and are making all sincere efforts to carry them into effect from the beginning of the year.

It is known to the whole world that we advanced a concrete proposal to adopt a nonaggression declaration in order to ensure a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, free of the threat of northward invasion and "southward invasion," and are making patient efforts to carry it into practice.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean puppets are following the road of war, further imciting North-South confrontation by taking issue with us. This shows that they have no intention at all for peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean rulers committed such an unprecedentedly uncourteous act as refusing to take over even our letter containing the proposal for the convocation of a political consultative conference for national reunification. They now intend to stage nuclear war exercises against their dialogue partner together with the U.S. imperialists in disregard of our side's strong call at the inter-Korean high-level talks for a halt to the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises. All this goes to prove that they have intended from long ago to refuse and break up dialogue in a planned way and are seeking war, not peace, on the Korean peninsula.

It is clear wherein lies the reason why the South Korean puppets went off into hysterics as soon as the war broke out in the Gulf region, misleading public opinion with the false impression that we will immediately mount an attack.

It is because they seek in this to close the door between the North and the South, rush more feverishly along the road of anti- communist fascistisation and thus suppress the South Korean people's struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, maintain the military fascist dictatorial system now in peril and, furthermore, gratify their wild ambition for long-term office.

Crying that North-South dialogue and exchange will, in the final analysis, lead to the overthrow of the anti-communist system which keeps them alive and foment the sentiments for national reunification among the South Korean people of all walks of life, they choose the road of confrontation, tensions and war, not dialogue and detente, in the North-South relations.

This is why the No group is strengthening the military fascist repressive rule while inciting North-South confrontation and screwing up tension after the outbreak of the Gulf war.

It intends to lay a foundation for a long-term office by rigging up the forthcoming "local assembly elections" at the point of bayonet in the "state of an emergency alert", because the elections are directly related to the "elections of heads of local self-government bodies", "National Assembly elections" and "presidential elections" slated for next year.

The South Korean puppets are now finding themselves in an unprecedented predicament as the anti-U.S., anti-"DLP" [Democratic Liberal Party] struggle of students and people of various social strata is likely to rapidly gain momentum in the coming spring, the economic crisis is getting more serious due to the Gulf War and the dissension and discord within the ruling group are aggravating because of the scramble for power.

Upset by this, the puppets seek to incite awareness of the crisis among the South Korean people with the Gulf War as an occasion, further intensify the fascistization moves under its pretext, stifle the forces for reunification and democracy and build up the long-term office system.

All these facts clearly show that the frantic row kicked up by the South Korean puppets after the outbreak of the Gulf War is an unpardonable criminal act aimed at strengthening the military fascist repressive rule on one hand and continuing the flunkeyist, treacherous acts and seeking anti-communist confrontation and a war against the North in North-South relations on the other.

The anti-communist confrontation and fascistization, however, cannot save the traitors from the tight corner.

Absolutely intolerable is the No Tae-u group's anti-national and anti-peace criminal act of driving out fellow countrymen to the war of aggression in a foreign country in submission to foreign forces and obstructing peace and peaceful reunification of the country in pursuance of the war policy of the outside forces.

We watch with high vigilance the grave situation obtaining in South Korea and are keeping ourselves fully ready to cope with every situation.

If the No Tae-u group keep to the road of anti-communist confrontation and war and fascistization despite our solemn warnings, they will not be able to escape a stern judgement by history.

Seoul's Support to Mideast Conflict Denounced

SK2001082791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0811 GMT 20 Jan 91

["U.S. Imperialists' Understrapper in War of Aggression"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—No Tae-u is now committing the treacherous act of unhesitatingly jumping into the Gulf war provoked by the U.S. imperialists.

No sooner had the war broken out in the Gulf region than he sent to U.S. President Bush who had ordered to ignite the war of aggression an urgent "message" heartily hailing and supporting the provocation of it by the U.S. imperialists and pledged himself to extend a zealous aid to the U.S. troops' military operation.

The day when the war broke out in the Gulf, he instructed the puppet administration to take an "emergency step" for a quick dispatch of the "military medical team" by moving up the date of the "cabinet council" meeting. In the afternoon he called an "emergency national security meeting and urged his underlings to take measures for "an early dispatch" of the "military medical team" and support to the United States in transport.

This strips No Tae-u naked as a stooge faithful to the U.S. imperialists and their despicable henchman in war.

The South Korean people and the world peaceloving people hope for a settlement of the Gulf war by peaceful means, expressing concern over its escalation and resolutely oppose the dispatch of troops to the Gulf.

Nevertheless, the No ruling group is zealously joining in the Gulf war of aggression, yielding to the brigandish demand of the U.S. imperialists. It seeks in this to prop up the dictatorial power by clinging to the coattails of the U.S. imperialists, its master.

'Imperialists' Aim for Showdown Between Systems

SK2001084691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 20 Jan 91

["Acute Conflicts Between Socialism and Imperialism in Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—The imperialists are now aiming the spearhead of their anti-socialist offensive at Korea, turning the Korean peninsula into a place of acute showdown between socialism and capitalism.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a signed article headlined "Acute Conflicts Between Socialism and Imperialism in Korea."

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"In fact, it is at our country that the imperialists are aiming the spearhead of their anti-socialist manoeuvres. In the situation in which their country is divided and they are in direct confrontation with the imperialists, our people are working hard to build socialism and reunify their country. In our country acute conflicts between socialism and imperialism are taking place."

It is attributable to the U.S. imperialists' anti-DPRK, anti-socialist strategy of aggression that acute conflicts between socialism and imperialism are taking place in our country.

The United States is now intensifying military confrontation with us more than ever before in accordance with its global strategy against socialism and Asia-Pacific strategy.

The U.S. imperialists have converted South Korea into a forefront base for nuclear attack, a hotbed of nuclear war, posing nuclear threat and blackmail toward us.

The United States is dead set against arms cut on the Korean peninsula along the line of military confrontation. It is obstinately refusing to pull out of South Korea its troops and nuclear weapons, the root cause of armed showdown on the Korean peninsula. It is rather reinforcing them.

The United States, resorting to the showdown of strength against us, are foolishily attempting to blow the wind of "liberal democracy" into the northern half of Korea and bring about "internal change" according to its anti-socialist "peaceful transition" strategy.

The U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, feeling uneasy about us advancing under the banner of socialism, the banner of independence, are trying hard to lay obstacles and difficulties in the efforts of our people for socialist construction and national reunification, impair the international prestige of our Republic, isolate us on international arena and spot blot on the cause of socialism.

But this is no more than an illusion.

No anti-DPRK, anti-socialist move can shake our people.

North Accuses South of Aggravating Tensions

SK2001093291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Reckless Military Rackets Aggravating Tension"]

[Text] The South Korean puppets are recklessly running wild while rashly talking about us, using the war in the Persian Gulf as an occasion.

On 17 January when the war in the Persian Gulf broke out, traitor No Tae-u convened a so-called emergency national security meeting, and raved that to prevent a security threat, the military vigilant attitude should be strengthened and a security cooperative system with the United States should be further consolidated.

In addition, the puppet defense ministry held an emergency countermeasure meeting, and ordered the entire army to be on a high degree of vigilance. And, the puppet defense ministry ordered that all army company commanders not leave their barracks; that they intensify anti-aircraft vigilance against someone else's surprise aerial attacks; that they prepare for an immediate mobilization; that they watch for infiltration via underground tunnels; and that they intensify the coastal guard.

And, the puppet defense ministry ordered that all functions—such as military operation, information, communications, and military equipment—be changed into a general emergency system, to cope with an abrupt situation.

On 18 January, the puppet defense minister raved at the Defense Committee of the National Assembly that the Army fully prepare for mobilization to cope with someone else's perpetration. That same day, the puppet defense ministry directed that each army should form a unit to cope with a crisis.

This cannot be interpreted otherwise than a crazy act of a lunatic, who makes much ado about a fire breaking out in another country across the river, as if the fire broke out in his house.

Though a war broke out in the Persian Gulf due to the multinational forces led by the U.S. forces attacking Iraq, this is taking place far away from the Korean peninsula. Therefore, a flame spark cannot fly to South Korea.

On 17 and 18 January, the puppet defense minister himself affirmed that there is no sign to speak of in the North and that there is no special change in the North.

This aside, why on earth are the puppets busy preparing for a special and emergency wartime system and for a militant attitude, while talking about infiltration, surprise attack, and an unexpected situation? The rash and reckless action of the puppets cannot be interpreted other than a premeditated and designed provocation to aggravate tension between the North and the South, and not proceeding from worry about security.

As has been known, proceeding from the desire to wrap up this year as the year for alleviating tension and peace and as a historic year of opening a new phase for national reunification, we have put forward reasonable and realistic proposals that a nonaggression declaration be adopted between the North and the South, and that a political consultative meeting for national reunification be convened to negotiate and decide on the national common way for reunification of the country.

The South Korean ruling quarters, however, entirely turn a deaf ear to our just proposals, thus refusing to hand over our letter containing the proposal for convening a national political consultative meeting for national reunification. These are premeditated moves of refusing dialogue and suspending dialogue.

The South Korean ruling quarters have incited us, have followed the road of aggravating relations between the North and the South, have adhered to their ambition of reunification by winning over communism, and have further run wild with war exercises to attack the North.

From the beginning of a new year, the rascals constantly conduct war exercises simulating northward invasion, including ground attack exercises, airborne parachuting exercises, and landing operation exercises. Furthermore, they will try to conduct the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in the near future.

The puppets publicly committed, over and over again in broad daylight, the provocative acts of illegally infiltrating two unidentified ships into our side's territorial waters in the West Sea on 11 January, and of infiltrating three combatant ships deep into our side's territorial waters in the West Sea on 18 January. This is a premeditated move to aggravate tension.

Hardly had the war in the Persian Gulf broken out when the No Tae-u ring made much ado about preparing for a wartime system, while talking about us. This shows the rascals' frantic ambition of northward invasion. Thus, we cannot but regard this as grave.

Considering the puppets' reckless military rackets, there is a danger that the rascals may perpetrate a northward invasion together with the U.S. imperialists' aggressors, taking advantage of the world's concern that is focused on the Persian Gulf.

We are watching over the puppets' move to kick off a new war with a high degree of vigilance. The puppets should ponder the consequences to be entailed from their bellicose rackets, and should refrain from rash and reckless acts.

South Discussion on Gulf Combat Force Cited

SK2201053191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 22 Jan 91

["South Korean Authorities Scheme To Dispatch Combat Force to Gulf"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities openly revealed their intention to dispatch even combat force of the puppet army to the aggressive war in the Gulf region provoked by the U.S. imperialists, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The puppet defence minister at a plenary session of the "Defence Committee of the National Assembly" on January 21 blared that the question of dispatching combat force would be examined out of consideration for "security and interests", in case the United States "strongly requests combat troop dispatch."

The South Korean ruling quarters, the henchmen of the U.S. imperialists in the war of aggression, fully betrayed their treacherous scheme to offer South Korean young people again as cannon fodder to the U.S. imperialists by declaring their intention to send combat troops to the Gulf war in the wake of the anti-national step of sending a "military medical team".

South, U.S. Denounced for 'Watch' on North

SK2201055991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 22 Jan 91

["Criminal Scheme To Spread Gulf War to Korean Peninsula"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—Commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea RisCassi and U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Gregg were closeted with No Tae-u at "Chongwadae" on Jan. 20, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The warmongers of U.S. imperialism informed the chief executive of South Korea of the proceeding of the Gulf war and the "operational plan" of the U.S.-led multinational forces and told him to closely "watch" the North and strengthen the "early warning system."

They also assured him that there would be no change in their "security system" to cope with "the case of emergency" on the Korean peninsula and that their "defense commitments" to South Korea were "firm."

Sunday as it was, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group kept the officers of and above the company commander level of the U.S. troops and the puppet army on "alert duty at their posts" and took measures to strengthen the "emergency alert posture" and "drastically intensify their watch" on the North.

Meanwhile, the puppet defence minister revealed the intention of war against the north when he told the "Defence Committee of the National Assembly" that South Korea was ready to simultaneously cope with all-out and local wars.

The military racket kicked up by the South Korean authorities after the outbreak of the Gulf war shows that they want neither dialogue with the North nor reunification. It is a criminal move to deliberately aggravate the tension on the Korean peninsula and invent a pretext for a war against the North.

The Korean people are watching with heightened vigilance the anti-North war moves of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

They must clearly know that a war against the North will lead them to destruction.

U.S. Forces Reported To Launch Strike on Iraq

SK2001021891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The U.S. imperialists, who are waging war in the Persian Gulf, continue to intensify their massive bombardments and missile strikes against Iraq in the sky and on the sea.

U.S.'s CNN television broadcast reported that the U.S. air forces launched an air raid against targets in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, at dawn today.

Also, the U.S. imperialists launched a massive attack against Iraq once again by firing the Tomahawk cruise missiles from the battleships deployed in the Persian Gulf this morning.

According to foreign news, the U.S. war bomber formations and B- 52 strategic bombers have newly launched large-scale bombing against the Iraqi military camp sites located the area between Kuwait and Iraq.

In addition, it has been learned that the U.S. warplanes based in Turkey launched bombardments against the military targets in Iraq with the authorization of the Turkish Government.

Also, U.S. President Bush gave the administrative order yesterday giving the U.S. Defense Department authority to extend the military service terms of the reserves who participate in war in the Persian Gulf to the maximum two years and to mobilize one million reserves, if necessary.

In his statement, Fitzwater, spokesman for the White House, raved that this step is needed to help the U.S. Forces continue to conduct the operation "Desert Storm."

In his news conference from the White House, Bush raved that the war will not be over "unless our objectives are completely met." He also raved: The war is neither cheap nor easy, and there may be difficulties and losses in the future. He confessed that the U.S. Forces could pay dearly in the war which they have started.

U.S. Augmentation of Troops in Gulf Criticized

SK2001034991 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The U.S. imperialists are continuing to take measures to escalate the war in the Gulf.

According to a report, the authorities of the U.S. military circles on 18 January announced that 25,000 U.S. troops had been added to those in the Gulf area.

As a result, the number of the U.S. troops in the Gulf area has reportedly increased to 450,000 and the number of the multinational forces to 700,000.

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney declared on 18 January that an emergency airlift operation would be carried out as a result of the escalation of the war in the Gulf, and ordered twenty American civilian airliners to offer planes to cooperate in transporting war materials and equipment to the Near East.

Foreign news agencies, saying that American civilian airlines must provide aircraft within 24 hours according to the order, reported that some 180 commercial aircraft would be mobilized in that emergency airlift operation.

In addition, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on 18 January each adopted resolutions supporting the U.S. attack against Iraq.

Such war escalation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists are arousing denunciation from Americans and the world public.

U.S. Military 'Pessimistic' on Result of War

SK2001081091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Today, only several days after the U.S. imperialists provoked the Gulf war, pessimistic voices sounding worry over the result of war are already resounding among the U.S. military circles.

According to foreign news reports, Lt. Gen. Kelly, a high-ranking figure in the U.S. Defense Department, yesterday made a feeble remark that although the "Desert Storm" operation is ongoing, victory is not likely to be won by air battles.

He disappointedly stated that although U.S. Air Force planes are attacking the targets in Iraq one after another, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is still commanding his Armed Forces.

Hesitating to answer the question of a reporter, "can the Gulf war be victorious only by air raids?" he confessed that there are still enormous Iraqi Armed Forces and that the air raids failed to obtain the desired results.

Reporting on the moves of the U.S. military circles on the prospect of the Gulf war, foreign news reports said that the high-level U.S. military circles think that they have to traverse an arduous path to conclude the war since Iraq is not likely to surrender as was seen in the course of executing the operation up to now.

Shoot Down of Multinational Forces Planes Noted

SK1901082491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0700 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report, the Iraqi forces continue to shoot down the planes of the multinational forces led by the United States.

On 18 January, Baghdad radio reported that the Iraqi forces again shot down 22 enemy planes between 1445 and 1950 on 18 January, thus 94 planes of the multinational forces have been shot down since the invasion was kicked off.

Baghdad radio pointed out that at a time when the multinational forces are running toward the road leading to vice and aggression, the Iraqi people continue to strike vital blows to them.

Baghdad radio reported that the members of local aerial defense corps form anti-aircraft defense units to shoot down the enemy planes, and they are firmly resolved to defeat the enemy planes leave them as ashes of dust.

'Loss' to Coalition Forces in Gulf Reported

SK1801141191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According to news reports, the Iraqi Army is powerfully countering the continued attack by the U.S. troops.

In the time since the war broke out in the Gulf, the aircraft of the U.S. and multinational forces have incurred not a small loss in the face of the Iraqi Army's powerful anti-aircraft firepower.

U.S. CNN TV reported that the Iraqi anti-aircraft guns were spitting fire at U.S. Air Force aircraft flying over the air space above Baghdad. Radio Baghdad said that the Iraqi armed forces have downed 65 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. and multinational forces since the beginning of the war in the Gulf and have intercepted and destroyed 23 cruise missiles.

An Iraqi diplomat said on 18 January that 76 enemy aircraft were downed by the Iraqi Army during an air raid.

According to foreign news reports, Iraqi fighters had their first dogfight with U.S. fighters in the skies of Iraqi at dawn in the morning of 18 January.

Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that American pilots had been fired on with air-to-air missiles from Iraqi Air Force aircraft, as well as with surface-to-air missiles.

Iraqi Air Force aircraft also attacked military bases in Saudi Arabia on 17 January. Military sources said that the main force of the Iraqi Air Force still was capable of launching an operation because they had stayed in underground bunkers during air raids by the U.S. and multinational forces.

In the meantime, Iraqi missile units, too, began missile attacks on all fronts, according to foreign news reports. According to Iranian radios, on 17 January Iraqi missiles hit five loading berths for oil tankers in Saudi Arabia and left them in flames.

(?Sauran) region in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia is said to be receiving Iraqi missile attacks every 30 minutes.

On 18 January, a U.S. TV network confirmed that an Air Force base in Saudi Arabia had been hit by Iraqi missiles.

On the same day, Iraq missiles hit some major regions in Israel, such as Tel Aviv, (Kudusu), and Haifa, and others, according to the U.S. Defense Department and Israeli radios.

On the morning of 17 January, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn inspected Air Force and anti-aircraft headquarters and met the headquarters' generals and officers, according to Radio Baghdad. The radio also said that the president looked around in streets in Baghdad after the air raid and conversed with residents.

In the meantime, in a statement issued on 17 January, the Iraqi Revolutionary Leadership Council said that the 1 million-strong Iraqi Army will expel the U.S. aggression, expressing firm resolve to fight the enemy to the end and beat them.

The statement said the loss inflicted upon the U.S. troops and the multinational forces was far greater than the number the enemy had estimated and praised the successes attained by the Iraqi Army in battles.

Reported Escalation of Bombings in Iraq, Kuwait

SK1801131491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The U.S. imperialists who have provoked the war in the Gulf continue escalating bombing in Iraq and Kuwaiti regions.

According to foreign news reports, in a air raid carried out today, the third in 23 hours since the beginning of the war, the U.S. forces launched a large-scale indiscriminate bombing against communications center, oil refineries, military facilities, and civilian targets in Iraq by mobilizing AV-8B Harrier assault planes. The U.S. aircraft are also said to have carried out an air raid against the Iraqi army camps inside Kuwait.

According to U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney's revelation, the U.S. forces and the multinational forces had about 1,000 aircraft fly over to the air space above Iraq in the first 14 hours since the war in the Gulf started and fired about 100 cruise missiles at targets in Iraq.

Military sources said that timed to coincide with such an offensive operation conducted by the U.S. imperialists, British army's infantry units deployed in the northeastern part of Saudi Arabia have begun moving toward an area along the borderline with Kuwait.

On 17 January, Bush babbled that military offensive against Iraq will be continued and Cheney the warmonger, saying that the offensive operation against Iraq has just begun, clamored that the war in the Gulf can continue for considerable period of time.

Meantime, the French National Assembly approved of the French armed forces' participation in the war in the Gulf already on 16 January. At the same time, Italy and the Netherlands have announced that their armed forces will directly participate in the military operations in the war in the Gulf.

On 17 January, the Turkish parliament agreed to the government's request that the Turkish armed forces and foreign troops staying in the Turkish territory be allowed to enter into combat against Iraq.

According to spokesman for NATO, NATO has decided to send a rapid reaction fleet composed of a frigate and 8 submarines to the eastern Mediterranean.

Western alliance [sogu tongmaeng] is also reported to have released a statement confirming solidarity with the United States in a meeting of foreign and defense ministers held in Paris on 17 January.

U.S., Allied Forces' War Efforts Reported

SK2201093391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and the multinational forces keep bombing Iraq under Operation Desert Storm.

According to U.S. Defense Department sources, U.S. strategic B-52 bombers began a large-scale attack against Iraqi forces deployed along the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

A spokesman for British forces said on 19 January that British military aircraft had bombed the Scud ground-to-ground missile bases in Iraq and Kuwait.

According to ABC [American Broadcasting Company] TV in the U.S., the U.S. forces and the multinational forces are taking extreme pains to locate the camouflaged Iraqi Scud missile launchers which pose a great threat.

On 19 January, Cheney, U.S. Secretary of Defense, saying that a search was on for Scud missile launchers located in the western part of Iraq, admitted that the United States was making great efforts in pursuit of the launchers.

Foreign news reports said that in the 48 hours since the beginning of the war, aircraft of the U.S. Forces and the multinational forces have made a total of 2,107 sorties and dropped a total of 23,000 tons of bombs.

Meanwhile, foreign news reports said that the U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia began moving north on 20 January for a ground attack.

Iran Calls for 'Immediate Cease-Fire' in Gulf

SK1801144391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According to news reports from Tehran on 17 January, the Iranian parliament called for an immediate end to the war in the Gulf and for anti-U.S. demonstrations across the country.

A letter of appeal published in the name of the lawmakers denounced the military stationing of the United States and Western countries' forces in the Gulf. It noted that Iran was expressing great concern about the fact that these forces have massacred Iraqi Muslims of both sexes and children by large-scale aggression and bombing in Iraqi cities.

The letter of appeal called for an immediate cease-fire [chonghwa] and for the United States to withdraw from this region as soon as possible.

Reports of Arab Condemnation of U.S. Attack

SK1801145891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According to news reports, many Arab states are raising voices denouncing the U.S. imperialists for having triggered the war in the Gulf. They are calling for the restoration of peace in the Gulf region at the earliest possible date.

In a statement released on 17 January, the executive committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization appealed to the Islamic countries and the Third World countries to mobilize their resources to counter the treacherous U.S. aggression against Iraq.

The statement stressed that people in all Islamic countries, Third World countries, and peace-loving countries should take part in a struggle to stand up to such brazen-faced U.S. aggressive maneuvers.

The statement noted that this war of aggression is one against the Arab people's resources, ability, wealth, and future.

Issuing a statement on 17 January, the Jordanian Government denounced the attack against Iraq by the United States and its allies. The statement noted that Jordan and its leadership, the government and people, were denouncing this attack as a brutal act against an Arab State and its people.

In a statement issued at the end of an emergency meeting held on 17 January, the Algerian Government insisted that peace be restored in the Gulf at the earliest possible date. The statement stressed the need to mobilize the Arab people and to achieve cohesion and unity among them.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid noted that at this solemn moment, the Algerian people, state institutions, and political parties should unite firmly with each other, should be awakened, and should establish discipline.

The Tunisian Government issued a statement after holding an emergency meeting on 17 January. The statement insisted that the international community and the UN Security Council should take emergency measures to stop the war and have the feuds solved by peaceful means. The statement also expressed deep concern about the tragedy suffered by the Arab people and the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people in particular.

U.S., South Aerial Exercises Denounced

SK1901025491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According a military source, the U.S. imperialist aggressors, while dragging military bosses into South Korea from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases in the Pacific one after the other in a bid to hold conspiratorial military conferences, are wantonly staging ground and aerial war exercises under various kinds of codenames, thereby further aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula.

At around 1000 on 18 January, the U.S. Pacific Command sent formations of fighter-bombers and pursuit-assault planes such as F-16's and FA-18's from Kadena base in Okinawa and Iwakuni base to the skies over Yoju, Kunwi, and Tongduchon to stage a joint war exercise simulating a preemptive attack on major targets in the inland area of the northern half of the Republic in coordination with formations of fighter-bombers and observation planes such as F-4, F-5, F-16, and OA-10 belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the puppet Air Force.

Also, between 0800 and 1800 on the same day, the U.S. imperialists sent formations of fighter-bombers and observation planes such as F-16's and OA-10's belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force to the skies over (Anyang), Anmyondo, and Yongdong to stage an aerial war exercise for northward invasion together with formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes such as F-4, F-5, F-86, and A-37 belonging to the puppet Air Force. No fewer than 100 fighters were mobilized in this exercise.

Between 1000 and 1800 on the same day, the U.S. imperialists moved many formations of fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes, and transport planes such as F-16, A-6, FA-18, and C-130 from the Misawa, Atsuki, and Yokoda bases in Japan and deployed them in Osan and Kunsan bases.

On the same day, the South Korean puppets staged a ground forces' strike exercise for northward invasion in Uijongbu and Kapyong with the support of formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes such as F-16, F-5, and A-37. Between 1700 and 1800 on the same day, the puppets frantically staged a parachute drop exercise by special commando troops in the sky over Chunchon.

All facts vividly show how frantically the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are running wild to realize their wild ambition for a northward invasion.

South Korea

Assembly Approves Dispatch of Medical Team

SK2101133091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1308 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean National Assembly has given the green light to the government plan to dispatch a 154-member military medical team to assist the U.S.- led multinational forces.

A government-proposed motion for the dispatch of medics to Saudi Arabia went through a plenary session of the National Assembly extra sitting on Monday. Most of opposition lawmakers did not raise any significant objection to the motion. Government leaders had persuaded the opposition parties to cooperate for the passage of the motion, saying that the dispatch of the medical troop would not lead to that of combat troops.

Given the much-awaited approval, the medical team had an inauguration ceremony in the afternoon and got down to preparations to get ready for departure on Wednesday. A 26-member advance party already left a week ago.

According to the motion, a field grade officer will head the team, which will be stationed in Nariya, northeastern Saudi Arabia. The cost to Korea will be an estimated 9.82 billion won (13.7 million U.S. dollars).

PPD Eases Opposition

SK1901015491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The leading opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] has eased its opposition to the dispatch of a 154-member military medical team to the Persian Gulf.

PPD spokesman Pak Sang-chon said his party would not oppose a motion calling for sending military doctors and nurses to the Gulf, if the government promises to send no combat troops. He said, "We will show flexibility about the military medical group, if there is a guarantee that no combat troops would be sent to the Middle East."

The party's change of position may have been caused by Koreans' reportedly growing support for the United States in the Gulf war. Parliamentary sources said the main opposition party is not likely to oppose passage of the motion by the National Assembly which is to convene Monday. The government has said it had no plan to dispatch combat troops to the U.S.-led multinational force.

Meanwhile, the PPD spokesman said President No should testify before the Assembly to clarify the government's position on that matter and to ease public fear of the hostilities in the Middle East. At the request of the opposition party, the National Assembly Defense Committee delayed action on the motion approving combat units for the Gulf until early Monday morning. Kwon No-kap, a PPD lawmaker and deputy chairman of the Defense Committee, said his party will wait and see how President No and Kim Tae-chung handle the issue

Assembly Works To Resolve Problems

SK2201012391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0043 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP)—Floor leaders were trying to iron out differences on the agenda for the National Assembly on Tuesday morning, but prospects were bleak for a normal session.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) went into the talks insisting one of the first orders of business be interpellation of the government, but the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) was bent on adding party representatives' speeches to the agenda.

The PPD says it wants to hear the speeches either on Wednesday or after the interpellation and that it wants to deal with the labor union law, which was vetoed by President No Tae-u.

The assembly sitting opened Monday and lawmakers approved a government motion to send a 154-member military medical team to support the multinational forces in the Gulf 223-to-nine with two abstentions.

The medics will leave Wednesday for a hospital in Al-Nariya.

The assembly approved President No Tae-u's appointment of No Chae-pong as prime minister, elected Rep. Sin Sun-pom of the PPD chairman of the National Assembly Economy and Science Committee and endorsed Kim Sok-chu as chief justice.

Disagreement Over Medics Vote

SK2201095091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0854 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP) —Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), ordered Tuesday a disciplinary action against Rep. Kwon Hon-song for disobeying an order to vote for a government motion to send a military medical team to the Gulf. Kwon, a member of Kim's faction, voted against the motion, which was easily approved in a plenary session of the National Assembly Monday.

Lawmakers of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) voted for it after hearing from the government that the dispatch of the medical team would not lead to sending combat troops.

The DLP will give warnings to those who missed Monday's vote without an acceptable reason. Fifteen DLP lawmakers were absent.

Assembly Discusses Gulf Impact

SK2101074391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0646 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—If the Gulf war comes to an end within a week and the cost of crude oil remains around 20 U.S. dollars a barrel, the conflict is likely to do the South Korean economy more good than harm, Prime Minister No Chae-pong said Monday.

Reporting on state affairs to an extra sitting of the National Assembly, No said Korea could achieve 7-percent economic growth if the war ends within a month and if oil prices linger somewhere around 25 dollars a barrel.

"If the war goes on longer and expands, the world economy will be gravely affected and suffer chaos, and the impact on our economy will be serious. The government is working on emergency measures to stem such an economic crisis and to prevent social unrest," he said.

The law-enforcement authorities would strengthen vigilance against activities of "impure elements" and a "miscalculation" by North Korea of the security situation on the Korean peninsula in the wake of the Gulf war, he said.

The National Assembly was to vote on a government-proposed motion to send a 154-member military medical team to join the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

The National Assembly Defense Committee approved the motion early in the morning by a vote of 16-to-1, with only Rep. Ho Tak of the splinter Democratic Party opposing it. Ho said he felt the dispatch of medics was likely to lead to the dispatch of combat troops.

Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku told the committee that it was premature to talk about the dispatch of combat troops.

"As for the safety of our medical team, we have a firm guarantee of the Saudi Government. We have been also assured by the U.S. Forces in Korea that Korean troops will not be deployed to the Gulf," Yi said.

The government motion on the dispatch of medics says a field grade officer would head the team, which would be stationed in Nariya, northeastern Saudi Arabia. The cost to Korea will be an estimated 9.82 billion won.

In his report, No said the government would do its utmost to ensure local elections are fair, to stabilize prices, to promote quality of education at all levels and to meet diplomatic goals such as a trip by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Seoul, Korea's admission into the United Nations and improvement of inter-Korean relations.

Floor leaders of the ruling and opposition parties discussed the agenda of the 20-day extra sitting, but failed to agree on whether to include party presidents' speeches.

Security at Foreign Diplomatic Missions Increased

SK1901121691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1156 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 19 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government on Saturday tightened security measures in and around foreign diplomatic missions, airports and public office buildings to protect the facilities from possible terrorist attacks.

Police increased the number of guards at 60 embassies and residences of diplomats from 30 foreign countries, including the 23 participating in the multinational forces in the Gulf, from 921 to 1,221, the special committee on the Persian Gulf situation said.

The number of guards at the 15 gates of the Kimpo International Airport and five checkpoints around the airport was also increased from 55 to 87.

Heightened precautions were also taken at the government complex building, Yi Hung-chu, chief of the general situation room of the ad hoc committee, said.

The government measure was taken upon receiving information on possible infiltration of Arab guerrillas and Muslim terrorists who support Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, local reports said.

The reports said the information on the possible entry to Korea of Muslim terrorists from Southeast Asian countries were tipped by the Korean diplomatic missions based there, according to the reports.

Security officials have reportedly been closely watching activities of some 200 people from the Gulf region who are currently in the country.

Minister Yi Quoted on South's Defense Posture

SK2001024091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Jan 91 p 3

[From the "News Analysis" column by staff reporter Yi Song-yul]

[Text] The outbreak of the Gulf war has caused worldwide tension, and has put the Korean Armed Forces on alert against a possible "miscalculation" by North Korea.

The Defense Ministry has enhanced the intelligence watch level from "Watchcon (watch condition) four" to "Watchcon three" Jan. 13, several days before the war broke out, and Watchcon two will soon be invoked.

The government has launched a campaign to conserve energy, and a military medical team is to leave for the Saudi Arabian city of Al Nariya later this week, probably Tuesday, to join the U.S.-led alliance medical corps.

Concerning the dispatch of a 154-member military medical team to Saudi Arabia, most Koreans, even opposition politicians, are in favor from a humanitarian and political viewpoint, according to a recent survey. But they are concerned about the possibility of sending combat troops to the Gulf following a recent hint to that effect made by Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku.

On Jan. 11, Yi said that "Seoul has not yet been asked to send combat forces to Saudi Arabia, nor can it afford to." "But if the United States and other countries of the alliance strongly call for it, we could consider it carefully only if it proves beneficial to our national interests," he said.

His remarks invited controversy among the political parties and populace in general, who still remember the night-mare of the Vietnam War. In the Vietnam War, some 200,000 Korean soldiers participated. Some 4,000 of them died and about 7,000 were wounded before Korean troops were pulled out of Vietnam in 1973.

But apparently surprised at the mounting opposition to the possibility of sending combat forces, Yi quickly ruled out the option saying he expected that Washington will not request the involvement of Korean forces, adding Seoul is not considering it.

Military experts interpreted Yi's Jan. 11 remarks as a gesture, to the United States, expressing his willingness to back or support the U.S. stance in the Gulf. They said Yi did not actually mean what he said.

Taking all factors into consideration, it could be concluded that there is no possibility that Seoul will send combat forces to Saudi Arabia.

First, it would be virtually impossible to get a national concensus or a National Assembly approval concerning dispatch of combat forces abroad, in light of the lingering memory of Vietnam War and the inter-Korea military confrontation.

Second, the dispatch of combat troops to the Middle East would endanger the ongoing inter-Korea talks and thus may hamper Seoul's bid for Nordpolitik.

Pyongyang even condemns Seoul's decision to send a military medical team, and if the South decides to dispatch combat troops to Saudi Arabia it may interrupt South-North dialogue.

Third, Korea would gain nothing by having its soldiers shed blood in the desert. The sending of a military medical team would be a sufficient Korean contribution to the multinational effort to impose sanction against Iraq. The direct involvement of Korean combat forces in the Gulf war may aggravate Seoul's relations with Iran and other Arab nations supporting Iraq.

Instead of involving its combat forces in the Gulf, Seoul knows it has to tighten its defense posture against the North in case it may take advantage of the U.S. forces concentration in the Gulf as a vacuum of U.S. defense commitment in the Korean peninsula.

Defense Ministry officials say they do not exclude the possibility that the North may provoke a regional or an all-out conflict during the Gulf war.

On Thursday, Minister Yi ordered the Armed Forces to be on heightened alert, with all the major commanders keeping their positions.

He said the Armed Forces have begun enhanced intelligence watch, converting the "Watchcon four" to "Watchcon three," which he said will soon be enhanced to "Watchcon two."

He also said the antiaircraft vigilance has been strengthened in case of an air raid from the North, adding the Navy has strengthened sea patrol.

The Headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has started running an integrated situation room controlling information, communications, logistics and mobilization.

But Yi said the defense readiness condition has not been elevated from the current "Defcon four" to "Defcon three," saying it would be decided on after a full consultation with the U.S. forces here, because enhancing the Defcon level would require movement of forces and ammunition to the front defense line. But if there are unusual signs from the North, "Defcon three" will be invoked, Yi said.

Recently, North Korean forces suspended regular exercise and Pyongyang ordered its Air Force and Navy on the alert, Yi said. Defense Ministry officials say that the only thing they want at this moment is that the Gulf war will be ended as soon as possible. The officials also say they are "praying" that Korea will not have to send combat forces to the Gulf.

No Tae-u Briefed on Gulf, Expresses Support

SK2101004491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 91 'Special Gulf War Edition' pp 2, 4

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday received a briefing about the status of the Gulf war from Gen. Robert W. RisCassi, commander in chief of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

The President was briefed about the operations of the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf and prospects of the conflict, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong said.

Before coming to Chongwadae, RisCassi said he had been informed of the war situation from the allied command in Saudi Arabia, Yi said.

The spokesman, however, provided no further details.

Regarding the military situation in the Korean peninsula, Gen. RisCassi said the U.S. troops in Korea have reinforced their early warning system and surveillance of communist North Korean troops, Yi said.

Should the war drag on, the general said, there would be no change in the strength of the U.S. military in Korea, according to the spokesman.

Overall, RisCassi reaffirmed firm American commitment to the defense of South Korea, Yi said.

After receiving the 70-minute briefing in which U.S. Amb. Donald Gregg also attended, President No was quoted as saying that Korea strongly supports the allied forces while condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

No expressed the hope that the Gulf war will come to an end as soon as possible to minimize casualties.

He emphasized the necessity for forging closer security ties between Seoul and Washington to ward off provocations by the communist north, Yi said.

The President also called for stepped-up international effort to prevent regional conflicts.

Communications 'Impossible' With Koreans in Gulf

SK2201011391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] A total of 32 Korean nationals still remain in Iraq and Kuwait and it is impossible to make contact with them at present, according to sources at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Those remaining in the war zone are 22 Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. employees, a Korean Embassy official in Baghdad and nine Koreans residing in Kuwait, ministry officials said.

For evacuation of the Hyundai employees, including Kim Chong-hun, chief of Hyundai business headquarters in Iraq, the Hyundai branch office in Amman, Jordan, has sent a Jordanian employee to arrange things.

Fourteen Hyundai workers were at the Hyundai headquarters located south of Baghdad and eight others at construction sites in Basra and other southern Iraq cities on Jan. 16, just one day before the outbreak of the Gulf War.

Before the war, Hyundai had planned to evacuate the employees to a chicken farm in Ar Ramadi located 170 km northeast of Baghdad. The construction firm had food and medicine for at least six months at the farm, according to Hyundai sources.

The Korea Embassy official still remaining in the Iraq capital was identified as Pak Sang-hwa, 34, an assistant consul married to an Iraqi Woman. He is reportedly living in the air-raid shelter in the basement of the Korean Embassy.

The nine Koreans now in Kuwait decided to remain in the country even after Iraq invaded the sheikdom in August. They reportedly refused to leave because they own shops or do other business there.

In Jordan, there are seven embassy officials, 13 Korean residents and 23 pressmen. Most of them are in Amman.

The Korean diplomatic mission in Amman has arranged their evacuation scheme in consultation with Jordanian and Syrian authorities. In case of emergency, they are to slip out of the country through Aqaba Port to Egypt or to Syria.

It was learned that 13 Koreans residing in Iraq are unwilling to leave the kingdom because they operate businesses in the country.

According to ministry officials, a total of 4,691 Korean nationals are in Saudi Arabia, including 2,546 construction workers and 340 medical doctors and nurses.

Hyundai has 899 workers, the largest number, followed by Hanil Development Co. (265), Shinsung Corporatiion (240) and Daelim Industrial Co. (203).

The construction firms have evacuated most of workers from construction sites in Damman, Jubayl and other "danger" zone near Kuwait to Riyadh, Jiddah and other "safe" areas.

At present, only 177 construction workers are at construction sites in the jubayl area.

Iraqi Envoy Vows Continued Resistance in Gulf

SK2201025191 Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Interview with Iraqi Charge in Korea Ghazal, by reporter Hwang Hon in Seoul; date not given—recorded in English with superimposed translation into Korean]

[Text] [Hwang Hon] Thank you for this interview with MBC News. First of all, I would like to ask you what is the main and official position of the Iraqi Government in this war?

[Ghazal] Well, we are going to resist and continue resisting as long as there is aggression against Iraq.

[Hwang] And what do you think is the main reason and cause of this war?

[Ghazal] The main reason is very clear. It is foreign intervention. We have many problems in our nation and we can solve ourselves.

[Hwang] But many Westerners think that the direct reason is your country's invasion of Kuwait last year.

[Ghazal] We have many problems in the Middle East. And they could be solved by peaceful means. There is no need for intervention or even using force in order to solve these problems.

[Hwang] Would you tell me why Iraq fired missiles on Israel?

[Ghazal] Right from the beginning, real coordination and cooperation existed between the Americans and the other troops stationed in the area, together with the Saudis, and clear cooperation and coordination had to exist with them and with the Israelis in order to attack Iraq. And that is why, I believe, we are still under the threat of attack from Israel. And we have the right to defend ourselves.

[Hwang] Also, is Iraq going to continue missile attacks on Israel?

[Ghazal] That depends on the Israelis. If they continue their participation in attacking Iraq, we will defend ourselves.

[Hwang] What measures does Iraq have to settle a peaceful ceasefire in this war?

[Ghazal] It does not depend on Iraq. It depends on the United States of America and its allies there. Let them stop the war and try to find a peaceful solution to all the problems and there will be no casualties or losses on either side. But for us, we are going to defend ourselves and we will not surrender.

[Hwang] And would you tell us what are the minimum conditions for your forces to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Ghazal] All we want is to have a peaceful solution to all the problems of the region. Do not forget the Palestinians and their persecution by the Israelis on a daily basis. Look at the problem created by the Israelis' delayed distribution of masks to the Palestinians. They consider them second-class people.

[Hwang] Personally, how long do you think this war will be going on?

[Ghazal] Oh, it will be a very, very long war and a bloody war, really. We said to the Americans and Western countries and the rest of the world that Iraq is not Panama. Iraq is not Grenada. We are not going to surrender. If you think we are, then this is, I guess, a miscalculation.

[Hwang] Thank you very much.

[Ghazal] Thank you.

Team Spirit-91 Expected To Begin End of Jan

SK2101115091 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The Team Spirit ROK-U.S. joint military exercise is expected to begin around the end of this month as scheduled, despite the Gulf War. The ROK and the United States are expected to jointly announce the detailed plan of the "Team Spirit" exercise around 24 January.

A government source today said that the Team Spirit-91 ROK-U.S. joint military exercise is due to begin around the end of this month with the U.S. Army units starting from the mainland U.S. to the ROK, and that the exercise will maintain the basic framework in which the ROK Forces, the U.S. Forces in the ROK, and the U.S. reinforcement forces from the U.S. mainland participate. The source said that the scale of the reinforcement forces from the U.S. mainland, etc. has not been finalized yet, and that the ROK and the United States are discussing ways to reduce the actual time spent in the exercise, in light of the Gulf War. Last year, the actual time period of the joint exercise of the ROK and the U.S. Forces Korea was 10 days.

N-S Premiers' Talks To Be Held as Scheduled

SK2201090091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0826 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP)—The fourth round of talks between the South and North Korean prime ministers is likely to be held on schedule in Pyongyang despite the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in the South, a senior South Korean Government official said Tuesday.

"The North told the South in an informal contact during the third round of inter-Korean high-level talks in Seoul in December that it would continue the talks despite Team Spirit," the official, who wanted to be unidentified, said.

"Pyongyang, instead, stressed at that time that the scale of Team Spirit should be shrunk," he said. "I guess there are few problems since Seoul and Washington have agreed to trim the scale of Team Spirit."

Seoul and Washington are planning a cut of 30 percent in personnel and material mobilization for Team Spirit, which will begin late this month.

The South and North agreed Dec. 14 to hold the fourth round of talks in Pyongyang on Feb. 25-28.

Pyongyang has said inter-Korean dialogue faces difficulty unless Seoul and Washington stop Team Spirit.

North Korea suspended all inter-Korean dialogue in February 1990 due to Team Spirit until September, when the first premiers' talks were held. Seoul insists the drill is defensive.

North Premier To Tour Three ASEAN Nations

SK2201081191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0746 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk will tour Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia from Jan. 29 to Feb. 7, a source inside the South Korean Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Yon's trip is likely to enhance North Korea's diplomatic relations with the nations, the source said.

North Korea has felt isolated by South Korea's success in improving its relations with the Soviet Union and China, once the North's staunchest allies, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Yon is likely to discuss ways to expand economic cooperation with his hosts, he said.

Thailand may upgrade North Korea's trade representative office in Bangkok to an embassy, he added. The two nations established diplomatic relations in 1975 and North Korea opened the office in 1976.

In reaction to Yon's ASEAN tour, Seoul will deliver an unequivocal message through diplomatic channels that it is not opposed to North Korea's effort to strengthen diplomatic ties with them. The message will also carry Seoul's hope that Pyongyang join the nuclear safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency and attend inter-Korean talks with sincerity, he said.

The nations have notified South Korea that they will advise Yon the North should join the United Nations together with the South as it is the best way to follow international trends, he said.

USSR's Maslyukov on Selling Weapons to DPRK

SK2201120991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1057 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—Visiting Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Maslyukov on Tuesday said that the Soviet Union will continue supplying defensive weapons to North Korea.

The Soviet leader said the Soviet-made weapons now being supplied to North Korea pose no military threats to any nation as they are defensive equipments.

"The Soviet Union has not provided any offensive weapons to North Korea and nor does it have such a plan. It has an intention to supply those weapons even to South Korea, if they are requested," said Maslyukov in a joint press conference with Kim Chong-in, a senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, right after winding up the second Korea-Soviet economic consultation.

Maslyukov, who is in charge of economic affairs and arrived here last Wednesday leading an official delegation, held a series of negotiations on bilateral economic cooperations with the South Korean officials.

Turning to the issue of North Korea's signing of safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Maslyukov said that it was understandable for North Korea to demand a U.S. guarantee that it would not use nuclear arms against North Korea as a precondition for the signing of the safeguards agreement.

He reiterated the conventional Soviet position regarding the question of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula, saying that it is true that there are nuclear weapons in the South and that the Soviet Union is supporting the non-nuclearization of the peninsula together with other nuclear powers.

Touching upon the issue of Korea's U.N. membership, Maslyukov said the Soviet Union would remain faithful to the U.N. principle of universality that any nation having qualifications specified by the U.N. Charter has a right to be a member of the world body.

The Soviet official, however, said that the matter of simultaneous entry of South and North Korea could be solved through inter-Korean contacts. South Korea has championed the idea of South and North Korea seeking simultaneous entry while North Korea proposed the sharing of a single seat.

Asked on the Soviet role in the inter-Korean dialogue, he said that the Soviet Union welcomed inter-Korean contacts and dialogues and had an intention to support them. Saying that the reunification of the Korean peninsula is only a matter of time, the Soviet official stressed the need for both sides of the Korean peninsula to take full responsibility over the Korean problem.

Turning to bilateral economic cooperations, he said that the meeting this time offered an opportunity to find South Korea's industrial potentiality. He hoped that the economic cooperations should be pushed ahead on the basis of reciprocal assitance and benefit.

Meanwhile, Kim, asked if the 3 billion dollars loan promised for the Soviet Union over the next three years might invite an excessive burden to the Korean economy, said that Korea is capable of sufficing a loan of one billion dollars a year judging from its trade volume.

In addition, he added, the loan has additional values that cannot be got for money considering the security-related aspects of the deal.

'Economic Aid Package' for USSR Detailed

SK2201035491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0307 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has prepared an economic aid package for the Soviet Union worth 3 billion U.S. dollars and a detailed agreement is to be signed in March, it was announced here Tuesday.

The 3 billion dollars, to be given over three years, comprises 1.5 billion dollars in tied loans to import Korean raw materials and consumer goods by the Soviet Union, 500 million dollars in export credits and 1 billion dollars in bank loans, according to the announcement.

The two countries will hold talks next month on a bilateral fisheries agreement in Moscow and open the first joint atomic energy committee meeting in Seoul in March.

These agreements came in the second Korea-Soviet economic consultation, which began Jan. 17 between government officials from the two sides headed by Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, and Yuriy Maslyukov, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, for the Soviet side.

Maslyukov is here to reciprocate Kim's visit to Moscow in August.

The tied loans of 1.5 billion dollars will be used to buy Korean consumer goods, and another 500 million dollars will be in deferred payments for goods imported by the Soviet Union.

The two countries are to sign an accord on the two loans in the first quarter of the year, the joint announcement said.

Officials said the signing is most likely in March.

An additional 1 billion dollars will be in straight loans, with the Korea Development Bank signing as the managing bank. Agreement on this loan is to be signed soon, according to the announcement.

Working-level negotiations are scheduled next month in Moscow to discuss the type and amount of products tied to the loans, the announcement said. The two sides will also select at the February meeting consumer items for joint production by screening some 40 proposed by the Soviet Union at the first Korea-Soviet economic consultation in Moscow.

Other highlights of the economic package are a fisheries agreement to be formally signed by March that will allow Korean vessels to fish in Soviet waters. The two sides are to initial the pact late Tuesday, and details will be discussed in a Moscow next month.

The two countries are to conclude an aviation pact based on accords drawn up by airline companies, boost telecommunications links by installing more direct phone lines and increase electronic mail services, with working-level talks scheduled in the first half, it said.

Korea is also to dispatch an inspection team to the Soviet Union in March to study seven proposed joint natural resources development projects, including natural gas in Sakhalin and Elginskoye coal mine, one of the largest in the Soviet Union.

In science and technology, a joint economic and technological cooperation committee will be formed, headed by deputy premiers from the two sides.

Seoul and Moscow will also hold the first science-technology ministers' meeting in Seoul in May, while a joint atomic energy committee will meet in March to discuss more than 20 topics for joint research.

The announcement also stated that Korea-Soviet relations will support settlement of peace on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

Korea asked for Soviet support in its bid to enter the United Nations and to urge North Korea to sign the nuclear safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Seoul asked Moscow to refrain from supplying arms to North Korea to prevent a further military buildup on the Korean peninsula, it said.

Burma

Army Overruns Mon Insurgent Headquarters 21 Jan

BK2101151191 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] At 1300 [0630 GMT] today, Army columns under the supervision of the Southeast Military Command attacked and overran the 200-strong headquarters of the MNDA [expansion of preceding word rendered in English unknown] Mon insurgent group led by Nai Win Yo. The camp is located near the Yadanabon mines, 26 miles east of Bokpyin, Bokpyin Township, near the Myanmar [Burma]-Thai border in the jurisdiction of the Southeast Military Command.

A total of eight battles, including two major ones, were fought before that insurgent headquarters was overrun. One soldier from our side laid down his life for the country while fcur others were wounded. The remains of 10 enemy soldiers were found.

Captured from the enemy were 80 weapons—one 57-mm [as heard]; one 60-mm [as heard]; 39 M-22 automatic rifles; 13 AK automatic rifles; 14 carbines; one carbine with folding stock; five M-16s; four Winchester rifles; one .22 caliber rifle; and one M-1 rifle—about 29,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, 40 RPG rounds, 100 40-mm shells, 85 .50 caliber rounds, 100 M-14 mines, 23 mines, and a communications set.

The camp had a total of 50 houses, including five with corrugated iron roofing, one meeting hall, and one mess room. Also captured from the camp were a new timber truck, one tractor, and one motorcycle.

Defense Ministry Official on 'Parallel Government'

BK1901131391 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1210 GMT 18 Jan 91

[From the program "Summary of report to the people on the insurgents of Myanmar: What is DFB and the parallel government?"—portion recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, the Voice of Myanmar [Burma] has planned to present to you a report on the prevailing political situation in which underground and aboveground insurgents are using various unscrupulous means to destroy and disintegrate our country. Major Than Tun from the Defense Ministry, who is a responsible person for this program, has already arrived in this studio.

[Begin recording] [Announcer] In this prevailing political situation, underground and aboveground insurgents are using various unscrupulous means to destroy and disintegrate our union. There are plans to present these matters to the people. That is why we have invited here Major Than Tun from the Defense Ministry, who has widely studied the activities and plans of the insurgents from the beginning to the end. There is one thing I would like to know first. I am asking this on behalf of the majority of people in their interests. According to news spreading today, we have heard that recently Sein Win, who is a member of the National League for Democracy [NLD], and his group have collaborated with Bo Mya, leader of the KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents, and formed a coalition government. Please tell us some basic facts about those news reports.

[Than Tun] Yes. My explanations regarding these matters will be based on various reports, evidence, documents, and videotapes in my possession. Sein Win and his group, together with some of the People's Assembly representatives elected in the past elections, defected to the Karen insurgents region in November 1990.

[Announcer] Yes.

[Than Tun] When they reached the Karen insurgents region, they held discussions with the DAB [Democratic Alliance of Burma] which was formed with various insurgents groups.

[Announcer] DAB?

[Than Tun] Yes, the DAB. The leader of the DAB is no other than KNU leader Bo Mya.

[Announcer] Yes, yes.

[Than Tun] It is called the Democratic Alliance of Burma. They held discussions with that group. The Karen insurgents accepted Sein Win and his group as representatives of the NLD. They formed another group after having some understandings, pledges, and agreements. That organization is the DFB [Democratic Front, Burma].

[Announcer] DFB?

[Than Tun] Yes, the DFB. That is the Democratic Front, Burma, formed by them. It was formed with representatives from the DAB and members of the NLD. It was formed at the KNU headquarters in Manerplaw on 18 December 1990.

[Announcer] That is not long ago.

[Than Tun] Yes.

[Announcer] According to what you say, Sein Win and his group have formed a group under the auspices of KNU's Bo Mya. It seems that they have all become Bo Mya's underlings.

[Than Tun] Yes. I will explain this matter. There is a chart which shows their future programs. They drew up this program after reaching some understandings and agreements.

[Announcer] Yes?

[Than Tun] First they formed the DFB composed of all leaders from the armed insurgent groups and Sein Win and his group. The power and the main post of chairman was taken by Bo Mya, leader of the KNU. Three groups were next formed under the DFB. The first group was called the Military Council; here also the chairman is Bo Mya. This group comprises leaders of the armed insurgent groups. The next group is the so-called government of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma [NCGUB]. This was formed with the group that left from here and was headed by Sein Win as prime minister. And then there is an advisory council. In it were expatriates Tin Maung Win and Ye Kyaw Thu from the CRDB [Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma] and also includes delegates from the insurgent groups. Plainly speaking, this group is a group that is collecting rice by showing a monkey [a Burmese proverb on exploitation]. They will try and collect funds internationally by exploiting the causes of democracy and other groups.

[Announcer] Yes, yes.

[Than Tun] By looking at this, it is clear that Bo Mya is holding the reins and Sein Win and his group formed their government under his auspices. Apart from that, on the day of the founding ceremony for the DFB, they held another ceremony to form Sein Win's parallel government. By studying their speeches and announcements, we can see that chairman Bo Mya while forming the DFB, outlined the policies and future programs of Sein Win's group. Sein Win and his group's duty is just to implement these programs.

[Announcer] Yes. According to your explanations just now, it is the Democratic Front, Burma, DFB; right? It was formed by Sein Win and his group.

[Than Tun] Right.

[Announcer] The DFB was formed when Sein Win's group collaborated and merged with the DAB led by KNU's Bo Mya. Now, there are frequent changes to the name of DAB. We are hearing quite a lot about the DAB. Please explain the background history of the DAB. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] So, according to your explanation, Major, the DAB is an alliance which is composed of all kinds of insurgents and unscrupulous elements which are engaged in all forms of insurgent activities.

[Than Tun] Yes. It is based on armed insurgency, and this organization—the DAB—is an unholy alliance which solicited funds from organizations abroad.

[Announcer] We would like to know about the dialogue when expatriates Sein Win and his group met with insurgent leader Bo Mya.

[Than Tun] Yes. As I have mentioned just now, Sein Win's group is also included in that unholy alliance at the insurgents' border camp. Since they became the underlings of Bo Mya, naturally their group also became a group under Bo Mya.

[Announcer] Right.

[Than Tun] What happened next is that they changed their attitude by claiming that our legally instituted Defense Services is a force that is unjustly fighting the insurgents and they, who have been rebelling for over 40 years, are a legal government. If you look back at the historical facts, you will undeniably see the tradition that our Defense Services have always stood by the people when the need arose in the country. The Defense Services have been striving with their utmost efforts in carrying out development activities to rebuild the country after a near collapse. Insurgents are always mining railroads, collecting taxes, robbing and killing people, and performing all kinds of atrocities. These are all undeniable facts. But at this time, since Sein Win and his group are in the insurgents' region and under the influence of the insurgents, their attitudes have changed and they are pointing their fingers at us.

[Announcer] It is true. According to what you have said, Major, if you look at expatriate Sein Win, before he reached the insurgents' region while he was still in the country, he abhorred the destructive activities of Bo Mya and various other insurgents. But now that he is there, his attitude has changed and I think his verbal provocations on the Defense Services were made under the insurgents' influence.

[Than Tun] Yes. Previously they were the ones who had decided to pursue politics legally and even formed political parties. This person was the chairman of the Party for National Democracy [PND] which had its registration revoked recently by the Election Commission.

[Announcer] Yes, I have seen it.

[Than Tun] At the moment, the insurgents have accepted their group as delegates of the NLD. If you reflect back you will see that this party was formed in collaboration with the NLD on 3 December 1988. It was formed with the Aung-Suu-Tin group. The NLD was formed with the three combined groups of U Aung Gyi, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and U Tin U. In December of that year there were differences in opinion in the NLD. U Aung Gyi split from that group. When U Aung Gyi left the party he made some threats about suing the party, citing the existence of financial disputes which are not his concern. If legal action is taken against the party, then its registration will be revoked. Therefore the need arises for a backup party in case of revocation of the party. That was why the Party for National Democracy was formed.

[Announcer] As a backup measure?

[Than Tun] Yes, as a backup measure. We have a record of this in the newsletter published by the NLD which stated that the Party for National Democracy is an associate party of the NLD.

[Announcer] Yes.

[Than Tun] As for the Patriotic Old Comrades League, it was clearly described in the newsletter as a fraternal party. There were NLD members among those who fled and they were accepted as NLD members when they arrived in the jungle. So they were once part of the legal party, but now they are among the insurgents. Statements made by Sein Win indicate there is understanding and cordiality between the NLD and insurgents. Now it can be interpreted that the NLD had established contacts with the insurgents earlier on. This person who once lived under the legal fold now absorbs the thinking of the insurgents and speaks the language of the insurgents.

[Announcer] Is there any likelihood of foreign governments recognizing the government formed by exiled Sein Win?

[Than Tun] The so-called government formed by him is under Karen insurgent Bo Mya and is an organization under the control of insurgents. Bo Mya is an insurgent who has been committing insurgency acts and terrorism for the past 40 years [passage omitted]. He is recognized as a leading criminal inside the country. Internationally, acts of terrorism such as mine explosions and plane hijackings, are not acceptable by decent countries. So who would support this so-called government under the control of the insurgents who are engaged in terrorism?

[Announcer] That is very clear.

[Than Tun] We can conclude that no one will support them.

[Announcer] Very clear, Major. What you said is very true, Major. The place where exiled Sein Win and his group formed the DFB is called Manerplaw.

[Than Tun] Yes, Manerplaw. The people are aware of camps such as Methawaw, Maw Pokay, and Wanghka which the Defense Services have captured one after another during military operations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Education Minister Inspects Reopened Schools

BK1501145591 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Colonel Pe Thein, minister of health and education and commander in chief of the University Training Corps, in the company of responsible officials, went on an inspection tour of the Institutes of Medicine and the Institute of Dental Medicine, which reopened their classes today.

The minister and his entourage arrived at the Institute of Medicine-1, Lanmadaw branch, at 1300, and were welcomed and shown around by Dr. Maung Maung Lay, director general of the (?Health) Department; Dr. Maung Maung Sein, rector of that institute; and responsible officials. [passage omitted]

The minister later proceeded to the Institute of Dental Medicine and was welcomed and shown around by Rector Dr. Khin Maung Lay and teachers. [passage omitted]

At 1515, the minister and his entourage visited the Institute of Medicine-1, Prome Road branch, and were welcomed and shown around by the professors and heads of concerned departments. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Government Regrets War, Urges Cease-Fire, Talks

BK2101164291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Bandar Seri Begawan, Jan 21 (AFP)—Brunei said Monday it regretted the outbreak of war in the Gulf, urging the belligerents to call a cease-fire and work towards a negotiated settlement.

But the Foreign Ministry reiterated in a statement its condemnation of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and said Brunei supported UN resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal.

More than 100 Brunei students have been flown home from the Gulf region in an airlift organised by the government at the request of anxious relatives.

In Kuala Lumpur, the outlawed People's Party of Brunei (PBB) called for an end to U.S.-led air strikes against Iraq and urged the parties involved to negotiate a settlement.

A statement signed by the PBB information chief, Osman Latif, said talks to end the hostilities should be held under the auspices of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations.

The PBB, whose top leaders have lived in exile in Malaysia and Indonesia since staging an abortive revolt in the tiny oil-rich kingdom in 1962, said the party abhorred the "savage missile and air attacks led by the U.S. on Iraq."

Malaysia

Further Reportage on Reaction to Gulf Crisis

Protection for Holy Cities Sought

BK1901041891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0345 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 19 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will urge the United Nations to declare the holy cities of Mecca and Medina as "open cities" to protect them from all forms of attack in view of the Gulf war.

Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said the government would also seek the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) support for its call.

In times of war, certain cities can be given protection for various reasons such as heavy civilian population, religious grounds, and historical perspectives.

Abu Hassan said the proposal would be forwarded to the OIC before being brought up at the UN as the matter involved the international community. Malaysia would make the proposal at an opportune time, he added.

Editorial Views Attack on Israel

BK2101134591 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Jan 91 p 10

[Editorial: "No change in issues and principles"]

[Text] Iraq has carried out its threat of taking the war to Israel by lobbing missiles in its direction. It obviously hopes a military response from Israel will drive a wedge in the coalition of forces arrayed against it, particularly among Muslim nations who may be persuaded to think twice about being seen to be on the same side as Israel.

Malaysia should not waver from its stand even if the Israeli Government decides to unleash its forces in retaliation.

Malaysia must persist in its insistence that Iraq withdraws from Kuwait. Once that is done, hostilities must end immediately.

Malaysia should not accept the Iraqis' attempt to link its invasion and occupation of Kuwait with a jihad against Israel because of the Palestinian issue. They are two separate issues.

When President Saddam invaded Kuwait, he said nothing of liberating Palestine. It was only later when, faced with international anger, condemnation and a threat of war, that President Saddam changed his stance and tried to cloak his aggression with the noble motive of championing the Arab and Palestinian cause. How is the Palestinian cause advanced by an attack on Kuwait? How is Israel hurt by an attack on fellow Arabs? It is threadbare hypocrisy for President Saddam to try to link his aggressive ambitions with the issue of the long-abiding denial of Palestinian rights.

As has been reiterated many times by Malaysian leaders, this country cannot accept the use of force to settle conflicts, especially when a larger and more powerful country uses its might against a smaller and weaker neighbour. We had the same experience with the [Indonesian President] Sukarno regime back in the 1960s.

Iraq has tried to make much of the presence of American-led forces in the Middle East, ranting about American ambitions to dominate the region and to humiliate Arab nation. Iraq conveniently ignores the fact that the American-led forces would not be in Saudi Arabia and the neighbouring countries if not for the attack on Kuwait by Iraq. If anybody is to be blamed, he is President Saddam for inviting such a response.

The Arab states that invited that Americans and others were clearly in no position to defend themselves against President Saddam's forces. Their fear was not unfounded, having witnessed Iraqi aggression against Iran previously and now Kuwait. Iraq says it had offered assurances to Saudi Arabia that it had no intention of attacking Saudi Arabia. Did it really expect Saudi Arabia to feel safe with such promises considering the fact that it had made similar promises to Kuwait just a couple of days before its tanks and troops rolled into the country? It then tried to justify the move by saying that Kuwait was threatening Iraq? C'mon. It is not afraid of the US, but it was afraid of tiny Kuwait?

Malaysia has made it clear that it is not supporting the US intervention per se, but supporting the various UN Security Council resolutions backing the need for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Experience has shown that sanctions may not work or will take a long time as in the case with South Africa. In the meantime Kuwaitis are being deprived of their rights and liberty and their country while some suffer at the hands of the Iraqi forces. There has been sufficient time for Iraq to consider the opinions and determination of the international community, and for it to withdraw to avoid a war.

This war has nothing to do with Islam or a battle against American imperialism. When Iraq was at war with Iran, it willingly accepted help from the US, a country which Iran called the Great Satan and an enemy of Islam. Now Iraq is using the same terms to describe the US. This is yet another illustration of President Saddam's hypocrisy.

Security Tightened at Airports

BK1901115891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0928 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 19 (OANA-/BERNAMA)—Malaysia has tightened up security at all its airports in view of the Gulf war, Transport Minister Dr. Ling Liong Sik said Saturday.

Airport personnel have been instructed to carry out additional security checks on planes especially from countries involved in the conflict and on their passengers, he said.

"We can't afford to take any risk as airlines worldwide fear that their planes can become possible targets of anti-American terrorist groups following the war," he told reporters.

Ling said his ministry was monitoring the number of flight cancellations by passengers following reports from tour operators and airlines of a drop in number of Europe-bound Malaysians and other nationals.

"If the number of passengers drops drastically, the government will have to act," he said.

He said most Europe-bound airlines have been using the Tashkent/Moscow route for the past 10 days while ships headed for Europe and West Asia and vice-versa had been alerted to avoid the Suez Canal and instead sail via the Cape of Good Hope.

Dr. Ling said the government would absorb any global increase in oil prices following the war in the interests of local consumers because raising local oil price would increase the price of consumer goods.

Foreign Minister Views Solution

BK2101145191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Interview with Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar by anchorman Somkiat Onwimon—live; in English]

[Text] [Somkiat] Yes, Your Excellency, it seems in Thailand as if there is a lot of diplomatic maneuvering. I don't know whether it is the ASEAN move to have a common stand regarding the situation in the Gulf.

[Omar] What I can say is that, at the moment, we share similar views as far as the Gulf crisis and the Gulf war are concerned. We are all together in terms of expressing our disappointment and unhappiness that the war has broken out as a result of the crisis, and we all urge Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally and to ensure that the former Government of Kuwait is reinstalled and the country returned to its people.

Nonetheless, although we have not had any formal meeting of ASEAN at the ministerial level regarding our stand on the crisis and the war, at the last ASEAN Standing Committee in Kuala Lumpur, where I chaired that meeting, it was agreed that ASEAN missions in those affected areas in west Asia should work together to ensure first the welfare and safety of ASEAN peoples, and at the same time, help each other in any evacuation that might result from the war. We hope that in the next weeks that ASEAN officers can meet to explore ways and means to cooperate in greater detail, if this is necessary. As chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, I (?am in) full agreement, should the need arise, to meet at the official and even the ministerial level.

[Somkiat] Sir, there is a move by the French Government now to call for an international conference to try to end the situation in the Gulf. What is the ASEAN attitude?

[Omar] Well, any move that would result in a quick end to this crisis, or war, is welcome because we would like to see the war end quickly so that there is no further loss of life or property and so that those in the region will be able to go back to their normal lives and incur fewer problems, not only for themselves, but also for those in other parts of the area, for us in Asia, and for the world as a whole. So it is important that we, and ASEAN in general, find ways and means to end this war quickly. Malaysia, in particular, is supportive (?of any) actions that would end the war...

[Somkiat, interrupting] But sir, would you support the idea of calling for an end to hostilities right now and then go on to the international conference in the meantime?

[Omar] Well, if this can be done, this is in fact what we need to do.

[Somkiat] Thank you sir. Thank you very much, foreign minister of Malaysia, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

Fundamentalists To Fight for Iraq

BK2201064691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 22 (AFP)—Malaysia's fundamentalist Parti Islam (PAS) is to send volunteers to join Iraqi forces in the Gulf war, a party official said Tuesday.

PAS information chief Subky Latif said the decision was made by the party Central Committee Monday.

"We start registering volunteers throughout the country today," he said.

Mr. Subky said the volunteers would provide whatever assistance they could, including fighting on the Iraqi side against U.S.-led forces trying to force Iraq out of occupied Kuwait.

"A jihad (holy war) like this does not occur everyday," he said.

The volunteers were expected to pay their own way because the party, which has 300,000 members, has little funds.

"We are also launching a donation drive (to finance the volunteers)," Mr. Subky said.

Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Ayub said Monday that the government could not stop PAS-recruited volunteers from going to Iraq if they had valid travel documents.

"If they go, the volunteers do so at their own risk," the English-language STAR newspaper quoted him as saying.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government has backed the U.N. Resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, including that setting the January 15 deadline for a pullout, after which the war began.

Senior Malaysian officials have also dismissed opposition claims that the conflict in the Gulf was a holy war that should be backed by Moslems.

A senior official of the youth wing of Dr. Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) said Monday that Iraq was wrong in invading and annexing Kuwait and that the Gulf conflict should not be viewed as a holy war.

King on Saudi, Muslim Ties

BK2201065791 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0634 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian King Sultan Azlan Shah said Tuesday the crises faced by Islamic countries, particularly the Gulf war and the question of Palestine, require solutions fully backed by all Islamic nations.

He said the Islamic world was faced with various problems which could adversely affect the solidarity and resolute [as received] of Muslims.

These problems require solutions fully backed by all Islamic nations so that peace and prosperity in the region can be achieved, he said when accepting the credentials of the New Saudi Arabian ambassador to Malaysia, Muhamed Hassan Abdul Wali, at the national palace.

The king said Malaysia followed all developments, particularly the Gulf war and the Palestinian problem, with concern.

He expressed the hope that enhanced relations between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia would contribute positively to the solidarity of Muslims and Islamic nations.

The close relations and cooperation between the two countries, which had been in existence for a long time, could be strengthened through trade and socio-economic and scientific ties, he said.

Muhamed Hassan replaces Fuad Abdul Hameed Al-Khateeb whose term of office expired in August 1989. Until the arrival of Muhamed Hassan, a charge d'affaires ran the embassy.

Finance Minister Speaks on Resignation, Gulf

BK1901160991 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin says he will continue to serve in his post until the prime minister decides on his intention to resign. He said it is up to the prime minister to decide the matter.

The finance minister was speaking to newsmen after chairing a National Front meeting today in Sungai Patani. On this he said he had agreed to attend an international economic conference in Bali, Indonesia, on 3 March. The conference participants will discuss ways to attract foreign investment, especially from the United States, in ASEAN countries.

Speaking on the Gulf crisis, Datuk Paduka Daim said the government had taken several measures to cope with any impacts of the crisis. He added that Malaysia will continue to supply oil to some ASEAN countries to cope with the oil shortage following the outbreak of the Gulf war.

Singapore

Further Reaction to Conflict in Persian Gulf

Medical Team Arrives in Riyadh

BK2001142491 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] The Singapore Armed Forces medical team, which left Singapore two days ago on a humanitarian mission to the Gulf, has arrived safely in Saudi Arabia. A statement by the Defense Ministry says the RSAF [Republic of Singapore Air Force] [name of plane indistinct] touched down at Riyadh's King Khalid Airport at about 7:40 PM tonight [1140 GMT]. The aircraft will be leaving Saudi Arabia tonight for a return flight to Singapore. It is expected to be back here tomorrow evening.

Party Decries Strikes on Iraq

BK2101165291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore, Jan 21 (AFP)—A Singapore Malay-based political party, PKMS, Monday condemned the United States and allied forces in Saudi Arabia for launching air strikes against Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

The U.S.-led multinational forces acted "as if it is World War III," the PKMS said in a statement, adding "one wonders whether they are liberating Kuwait or blowing up Iraq to smithereens."

PKMS has no representation in the Singapore parliament but enjoys backing from Malays, who make up about 15 percent of Singapore's 2.7 million population.

It said innocent Kuwaitis and Iraqis were dying because of the "hasty decision of the United Nations Security Council" to impose a deadline of January 15 for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war.

Mandatory Visas for Arabs

BK2201095891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0917 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore, Jan 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Passport holders from nine Arab countries will from Tuesday have to apply for a visa to enter Singapore as part of a move to check terrorism.

The countries are Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

They can apply for a visa from any of the Singapore missions overseas, and will also need to have local sponsors for their visits, the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

It said the Republic's intelligence service has been advised that terrorists have often used either forged passports of the nine countries or genuine passports but with false identification particulars.

"This is a precautionary measure to deal with security problems arising from the war in the Gulf," it said in a statement.

The statement added that the visa requirement was a temporary measure and would be reviewed and removed once the situation in the Gulf region permits it.

It said Singapore always welcomed visitors from the nine Arab countries and had not required them to have visas in the past.

"But the government has had to reluctantly impose the visa requirement now because there is a worldwide concern on terrorism," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the government has also increased security surveillance at the Republic's entry points, including Changi Airport and the seaport, certain foreign missions, and oil installations on several southern islands.

Bunker Industry 'Disrupted'

BK2201071491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore, Jan 22 (AFP)—The Gulf war has disrupted supplies of bunker fuel for bunkering firms in Singapore although major oil companies were also partly to blame because they were hoarding, an official said Tuesday.

Industry sources said that a combination of factors which resulted in increased demand for bunker fuel oil had only made the situation here worse.

A managing director of a bunkering company said that the shortage was partly artificial because of hoarding by the major oil companies.

"They are hoarding in anticipation of an oil price rise because they think the war will drag on and may result in the Iraqis getting the upper hand," she added.

She said her firm was facing a very tight supply situation and a major oil company here told her that it could not supply her on a long-term basis due to the Gulf crisis.

But three major oil companies here—Esso, British Petroleum and Mobil—denied that they were the cause of the tight situation and Mobil said it did not see any problem supplying its "regular customers".

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, supplies of fuel oil from the Gulf region have been almost halved, traders said.

They said that factors like a diversion of supplies to Europe and other parts of the world, a shortage of bunker fuel and seasonal demand all contributed to the increased demand for it.

It was ironic that when oil prices worldwide have fallen, bunker prices in Singapore—the world's largest bunker port— have risen, they said.

A trader said that bunker prices Tuesday were still being quoted at around 200 dollars per tonne, the same level as Monday.

Lee Kuan Yew Scheduled To Visit U.S., Mexico

BK1901155791 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, will visit Washington from tomorrow to Wednesday [23 January]. A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said Mr. Lee will go to San Francisco for a meeting at Stanford University. This is at the invitation of Mr. George Shultz, chairman of the university's Advisory Council for Internatonal Studies. Mr. Lee has been invited to be a member of the Advisory Council.

Following his visit to Stanford, Mr. Lee will pay a weeklong official visit to Mexico at the invitation of President Carlos Salinas. He will meet with President Salinas, cabinet ministers, and leaders of the business and academic communities in Mexico.

The education minister, Dr. Tony Tan, and the acting minister for information and arts, Brigadier General George Yeo, will accompany Mr. Lee in Mexico.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Reports Start of War in Persian Gulf

BK1901113791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Report on War Breaking Out in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] On the evening of 16 January, Mr. Marlin Fitzwater, White House spokesman, read a statement by President George Bush specifying that the international forces have started to liberate Kuwait by launching attacks against Iraqi forces. Mr. Fitzwater said that the liberation of Kuwait has started. The United States, in cooperation with its multinational allied forces, carried out the operation codenamed "Storm to implement the resolution of the UN Security Council [UNSC].

At 1900, 0000 GMT, on 17 January—0700 Phnom Penh time—the forces of the Desert Storm operation attacked targets and positions in Kuwait and Iraq. Slightly earlier, U.S. television networks reported from Baghdad that various explosions were heard in the Iraqi capital. These attacks started on the first day when President George Bush remained silent after the deadline, set by the UNSC for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, had passed. The ultimatum expired at midnight on 15 January, New York time, or 0500 GMT and noon in Phnom Penh, on 16 January.

Experts have predicted that the offensive will start with air strikes at night. Furthermore, according to a high-ranking French official, French forces of operation Fawn in Saudi Arabia were placed under maximum alert. In Saudi Arabia the alert was sounded in Riyadh starting at 0310 local time, 0010 GMT, and a siren continued for many minutes. At the Novotel Hotel where many reporters and French Army officers stay, many soldiers ran along the streets and knocked on the doors of those who did not hear the siren. Crowds flocked into the hotel where the hotel manager invited them to go into the basement. City lights were not cut off during the alert.

In Israel, the Army suggested people put on their gas masks and told them not to leave their houses after the start of the attack. In a statement issued by the Army radio on 17 January at 0230 local time, 0030 GMT, the Army spokesman sugggested that civil servants in major public services stay in their bunkers and put on their gas masks.

In New York, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed his sorrow and sadness after the start of hostilities. He also stressed that the UNSC will convene a consultative meeting on the night of 17 January. He said: I cannot express my profound sadness as Secretary General of the United Nations, a peace organization; I can only express my sorrow over the start of the hostilities.

Kuwaiti news agency KUNA monitored in Manama quickly reported the start of the liberation of Kuwait. On the morning of 17 January, telephone communications with Iraq were not possible from Manama. Iraqi radio stations, which have been jammed for a few days, were unmonitorable. In France, the radio, which had been broadcasting for 24 hours a few days earlier, interrupted programming to announce the start of the U.S. attacks.

Baghdad was subject to air raids aimed at the largest targets every 15 minutes starting on the morning of 17 January. The British Defense Department stated on 17 January that units of the British forces took part in the offensive against Iraq. The multinational forces in the Gulf, including British units, carried out activities on the night of 16 January.

According to reports from the Gulf, a squadron of Tornado fighters left Mubarak Base in Bahrain at 2300 GMT on 16 January. These aircraft were accompanied by two tanker planes. This seemed to indicate that long-range bombing missions against Iraq were imminent. British forces in the Gulf region comprise 35,000 troops, including 28,000 on the ground, 4,000 pilots, and 3,000 in the Navy. The British forces have five and a half squadrons of fighter-bombers, or 72 aircraft in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Phnom Penh Shuffles Party Central Committee

BK2001125391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 20 Jan 91

["Communique on the 12th session of the fifth party Central Committee"]

[Text] In an atmosphere in which the entire party, Armed Forces, and people enjoy advancing the revolutionary movement to welcome the 12th anniversary of the 7 January national day, the 12th plenary session of the Fifth Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee was held from 17 to 20 January 1991 under the chairmanship of Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, and achieved the following results.

1. The session was highly unanimous in its assessment of the situation of the Cambodian revolution in 1990, particularly in a phase of complex and difficult struggle in the past more than one year. Following the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops, the Cambodian revolution has carried out many major tasks and most importantly, has firmly safeguarded social and national gains.

The meeting praised the patriotic spirit of cadres, party members, combatants, workers, employees, and our people for enduring hardship and making sacrifices and actively contributing to advancing the three revolutionary movements under the party leadership. This has greatly contributed to maintaining the overall situation. The fact that the combined forces of our Armed Forces and people have maintained and consolidated the situation and counterattacked with efficiency the enemy's military adventures—in particular preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime—has shed good influence on the consolidation of the internal ideological policy, the building of all types of forces, and the economic management to solve social problems. It has also contributed to increasing the State of Cambodia's prestige in the international arena.

2. Starting from this special condition of the revolutionary situation in the current phase, experiences in 1990, and, combined with the assessment of the situation, the session adopted resolutions on the situation and targets of the Cambodian revolution in 1991 by setting out major tasks aimed at continuing the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the fifth party congress and the second national conference of cadres.

3. The plenum decided to retire Comrade Tang Saroem from the party Central Committee; voted to relieve Comrade Sim Ka from his duty as vice chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission—he is assigned a new mission as secretary of the Phnom Penh City party committee; voted to appoint Comrade Ney Pena as vice chairman of the party Central Committee's Control Commission; and nominated Comrade Khim Bo, secretary of the Takeo provincial party committee, as full member of the party Central Committee.

With the goodwill to have peace and national reconciliation, the plenum appealed to all countries and parties involved to continue to make contributions in order to move toward quickly achieving a political solution to the Cambodian problem based on respect for the UN Charter, Cambodia's sovereignty, and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination, and to take concrete measures to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return.

Maintaining the political and military status quo before the election is the only way to effectively prevent the genocidal regime's return and is as significant as the Cambodian people's lives. This cannot be conceded. The Cambodian people insistently aspire to peace in order to create conditions for rebuilding the country.

The Cambodian people would like to express gratitude to the parties, governments, and people of Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, the Republic of India, and friendly countries which have provided assistance and support to the just and correct cause of the Cambodian people. The Cambodian people always want to have good relations with all countries regardless of their political tendencies and social regimes based on the principle of peaceful coexistence.

We want to expand the relations with the Kingdom of Thailand and the ASEAN countries for the cause of peace and stability and regional cooperation. The Cambodian people used to have long-standing relations with the Chinese people and have no reason to provoke a conflict with the Chinese people. However, it is the ringleaders of the genocidal Pol Pot clique who affect the traditional relations between the people of the two countries. The Cambodian people still have the goodwill and are always ready to restore these relations of friendship with the Chinese people.

The party Central Committee appeals to the entire party, Armed Forces, and people to increase the spirit of unity around the party and transform the resolutions adopted by the 12th plenum of the fifth party Central Committee into concrete activities by actively taking part in major campaigns, such as the campaign to counterattack the enemies, production campaign and gathering [words indistinct], campaign against negativism and corruption, campaign to practise thrift and strengthen discipline, and the diplomatic struggle campaign, in order to continue consolidating the situation in every field in 1991 and improving it gradually.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 20 January 1991

Chea Sim Chairs Cambodian Youth Union Plenum

BK2001060491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0424 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 20—The Executive Committee of the People's Revolutionary Youth Union of Kampuchea [PRYUK] held its 8th plenum in Phnom Penh from January 14 to 16 in the presence of Chea Sim, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland.

The plenum heard reports on the youth's activities in 1990 and adopted a resolution on the important tasks of the PRYUK in the coming period, including the consolidation of the youth organisations at all levels.

The participants renewed their firm confidence in the leadership of the party and state, which always create conditions for the youth to fulfill their task.

The plenum welcomed measures taken by the party and state to combat corruption. It fully supported the party and government policy in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian conflict, and expressed its opposition to any attempt to bring back the genocidal Pol Pot regime to power and to any solution which violates Cambodia's sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

The plenum underlined the necessity to further consolidate its solidarity, friendship, and cooperation with the youth organisations of the fraternal countries, especially Vietnam, Laos, and the Soviet Union.

Speaking at the closing session, Chairman Chea Sim recalled the victories of the Cambodian Armed Forces after the complete pullout of the Vietnamese Army volunteers from the country and the process of settlement of the Cambodian problem.

He recommended the Cambodain youth to do their utmost to promote their activities in comformity with the evolution of the situation in the country.

The plenum ended with the handover of rotary emulation banners to four youth organisations in the provinces of Preah Vihear, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Takeo, and Kompong Cham.

UNICEF Group Arrives on Fact-Finding Mission

BK2101122691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1116 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Jan. 21—A UNICEF delegation led by Mr. Chiba Akihiro, director of the bureau for coordinating of the operational activities of the United Nations Children's Fund, arrived here Sunday for a 17-day working visit to Cambodia.

Mr. Chiba Akihiro and his party were greeted at Pochentong Airport by Mr. Mom Chimhuy, deputy education minister and other Khmer officials.

Mr. Chiba Akihiro is scheduled to conduct a fact-finding tour of a number of localities to get better understanding about the educational, cultural and information works in this country.

VOK Reports Outbreak of Persian Gulf War

BK1901135591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The war in the Persian Gulf has started with the United States attacking many Iraqi military targets in Baghdad at 0700, Cambodian time.

White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait has started. U.S. military sources in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said explosions and the loud sounds of antiaircraft fire were heard in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Reports from London said the British Defense Department disclosed that the attacks against Iraq by the multinational allied forces led by the United States started with air strikes. U.S. military sources say many U.S. bombers took off from Saudi Arabia at 0450 carrying bombs and missiles to protect against air attacks. U.S. television networks reported that the attacks were against various Iraqi Army commands.

U.S. President George Bush said in an official statement, read by Marlin Fitzwater, that the war to liberate Kuwait has started. The European Community called an urgent meeting of defense and foreign ministers of member countries on Thursday in Paris, France, on the Persian Gulf issue. The meeting will be held at 2300 this Thursday. [17 January]

Hun Sen 'Claim' on Khmer Rouge Threat Decried

BK2101094991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Political commentary: "An Answer to the Hun Sen Group's Claim"]

[Text] Recently, Hun Sen [words indistinct] of the Vietnamese-installed regime, claimed that the State of Cambodia is an independent and sovereign state, and thus will not sign any document that violates Cambodia's sovereignty.

The VOK, which represents the general opinion of the Cambodian people, wishes to answer to this claim by Hun Sen that only a handful of Cambodians who have been serving and associating closely with the Vietnamese made such a claim. As for the Cambodian people in general and the international public, they have seen clearly that the State of Cambodia, which Mr. Hun Sen claimed was an independent and sovereign state, is just a machine for the Vietnamese colonialist policy in Cambodia. The head of this machine is in Hanoi.

Therefore, our answer and request to the Hun Sen group are: Please do not use the pretext of sovereignty which does not exist as a means to destroy the possibilities for restoring genuine sovereignty and independence to Cambodia as defined in the peace plan of the five big powers. Such an act betrays the interests of Cambodian nation and motherland.

All Cambodians know well that by handing over sufficient power to the United Nations, Cambodia would be saved from the cage of the communist regime installed by Vietnam and the Cambodians would be able to select a regime which really represents Cambodia.

But if your group insists on maintaining the Vietnamese enemy's communist regime, it means that you want the Cambodians to remain in the Vietnamese cage. Such an act is tantamount to serving the Vietnamese interests and betraying the Cambodian nation's interests. This fact is clearly seen by the Cambodian people and the international community. No matter how hard he would try, Hun Sen can never conceal this fact.

Another claim made by Mr. Hun Sen is that even if Samdech Norodom Sihanouk or His Excellency Son Sann would win in the elections, the power holder would be Pol Pot. We reject this abject, slanderous propaganda statement. This statement shows that Hun Sen has tried to smear Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's prestige and that of His Excellency Son Sann with Pol Pot's bad name. He wants the Cambodian people to distrust these two leaders. Such propaganda clearly reflects Hun Sen's dirty mind. Here is our answer to his claim:

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and His Excellency Son Sann have agreed to cooperate with the Khmer Rouge side with the aim of driving out the Vietnamese troops and the Vietnamese communists' colonialist policy, and not with an aim of seizing or sharing power with the Khmer Rouge group. On the contrary, we, the two Cambodian nationalist resistance forces, have kept calling for the disarming of all Cambodian factions, the dispatch of the UN peacekeeping force to safeguard peace and prevent the Khmer Rouge from using the force of arms to seize the power. As an aside for this point, we have called for such strict measures against the Khmer Rouge because we are well aware of the real design of the Vietnamese and Hun Sen group with regard to the Khmer Rouge. As a matter of fact, it is Vietnam and the Hun Sen group who want to keep the Khmer Rouge as a blade pointing at the others.

It is clear to all that Vietnam and the Hun Sen group are making every effort to keep the Khmer Rouge issue as a threat to the Cambodian people and the world community which is striving to seek a solution for settling the Cambodian problem correctly and fairly, thus forcing the Cambodian people and all peace- and justice-loving countries to accept the state power installed by Vietnam and everything it arranged and imposed on Cambodia as an irreversible situation.

Therefore, the Hun Sen group's activities can be summed up briefly as follows: The Hun Sen group with Vietnam behind its back is implementing a perfidious strategy [words indistinct] destroy the Big Five's peace plan which is a fair framework for restoring genuine independence, sovereignty, and peace in Cambodia.

But the group cannot fool all the international opinion and the Cambodian people. At the conference held in Paris last December, the two cochairmen of the conference foiled the Hun Sen group's attempt to alter the detailed draft of the Cambodian solution worked out by the Big Five. This means that the cochairmen were well aware of this dirty plan.

The Hun Sen group will not be able to distort this correct document. Justice must be on the side of the Cambodian people. The Vietnamese aggressors and those who serve the Vietnamese aggressive policy against Cambodia must be defeated.

Kompong Som Governor Reportedly Slain in Ambush

BK2101013591 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 20 Jan 91

["Daily Report From Various Battlefields"]

[Excerpt] Kompong Som battlefield, Prey Nop District: On 17 January, our national resistance forces ambushed and set ablaze a jeep of the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnamese puppet-lackeys in an area north of (Lou Kampuchea) along Route 4.

Four Vietnamese enemies and their puppets in the jeep, including the governor of Kompong Som City, were killed. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk Supports Resistance Joint Proposal

BK1701041991 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] On 15 January, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces, wrote a letter to His Excellency Khieu Samphan, expressing the samdech's support for the joint proposal of His Excellency Son Sann, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, calling on the cochairmen of the Paris conference—His Excellency Roland Dumas, French foreign minister; and His Excellency Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister—to urgently convene the meeting of the Paris conference's coordinating committee.

The following is Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's message:

His Excellency Khieu Samphan, vice president of Cambodia and chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea:

Your Excellency: I would like very much to thank you for your precious message sent to me on 14 January 1991. I would like to fully support you, His Excellency Son Sann, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in your joint proposal contained in the 14 January 1991 message to Their Excellencies Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, cochairmen of the Paris conference.

Please accept my highest consideration and most profound sentiments.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

[Dated] 15 January 1991

VONADK: SRV Prostitutes Sent to Kompong Som

BK1601072791 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] According to reports from Kompong Som city, on 5 January, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors sent 150 Vietnamese prostitutes from Vietnam to the seven-story hotel in Kompong Som city. The reports also specify that these 150 Vietnamese prostitutes are experts in psychological warfare and spying. Their tasks are:

1. To find out and locate the secret forces of our Cambodian national resistance forces in Kompong Som city.

2. To grasp the internal situation of the state authorities of the puppets and traitors to the nation Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim, Vietnam's lackeys.

3. To train combatants in the "five goods" and prevent the latter from rising up and opposing Vietnam, and through this, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors will continue to occupy Cambodia and massacre and exterminate our Cambodian race in accordance with the late Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese federation strategy. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Alatas Calls on Iraq To Withdraw From Kuwait

BK2201021491 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Indonesia has reiterated its call on Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait so that the Gulf crisis could be resolved through political means.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who arrived at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta International Airport from New York yesterday afternoon, said the call is made because the key to solve the problem lies in Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council resolution.

Minister Ali Alatas also said that several countries have now taken new initiatives to seek a political solution to end the Gulf War that already broke out.

However, he reminded that whatever diplomatic efforts are made to solve the problem, it will still go back to the root of the problem, that is, the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from occupied Kuwait in line with the United Nations Security Council's resolution.

Alatas Returns From New York, Comments on War

BK2101124991 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas returned to Jakarta this afternoon after a two-week visit to New York to chair the conference on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Speaking at a news conference minutes after arrival at the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport this afternoon, Ali Alatas, among other things, said that as the chairman of the conference, he was given the mandate to call for another meeting at an appropriate time later.

Meanwhile, responding to newsmen's question on Indonesia's attitude towards the Gulf crisis, Ali Alatas said Indonesia deeply regretted that a peaceful measure could not be adopted. He said Indonesia is very concerned that the war would negatively affect world politics and the international economy.

Airline Suspends Routes Via Abu Dhabi, Dubayy

BK2101061791 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0500 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Communications Minister Azwar Anas told newsmen in Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara, that Garuda Indonesia has temporarily suspended air routes to Europe via Abu Dhabi and Dubayy due to the ongoing Gulf War. The airline will instead fly via Bangkok, Thailand. He said that Garuda Airlines's 14 regular flights per week have been reduced to only 10. Although the suspension of these routes would cost Gharuda a great lost of income, it decided to do so because it does not want to take the risk.

Military Confirms Bomb at U.S. Envoy's House

BK1901103691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 19 (AFP)—The Indonesian Armed Forces Saturday confirmed that explosives were found in the residential compound of the U.S. ambassador in Jakarta, but said they were "not dangerous."

The explosives were placed by "irresponsible people aimed at creating fear," the military said in a statement, adding that it had launched an investigation into the incident.

The discovery Friday of the explosives surprised diplomats and observers because the house had been tightly guarded since the start Gulf war between the U.S.-led multinational force and Iraq.

Well-informed Indonesian and diplomatic sources said Friday a bomb was found in the morning in the garden of Ambassador John C. Monjo's Dutch colonial-style house in the elite Menteng district. It was later removed and detonated by an anti-bomb police squad just outside.

The military statement did not give details of the explosives but a local newspaper, quoting unidentified sources, said Saturday that the explosives were contained in a box and weighed around five kilograms (11 pounds).

The statement warned people not to try to stir up trouble, saying such activities "will be of no use and will fail" and adding that the security authorities have taken steps to ensure the safety of all foreigners in the country.

Indonesia, the world's largest Moslem country, has taken a neutral stand in the Gulf conflict, applying the U.N. trade embargo against Baghdad but rejecting requests to join the multinational force fighting to expel Iraq from Kuwait, which it invaded on August 2.

Suharto Cancels Visit to India Due to Gulf War

BK1901090991 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The Indonesian Government has notified the Indonesian ambassador in New Delhi and the Indian ambassador in Jakarta of the cancellation of President Suharto's planned visit to India. Minister and State Secretary Murdiono disclosed this to newsmen in Jakarta an hour ago.

[Begin Murdiono recording] The visit was scheduled to take place from 25 to 27 January. However, as we know, there have been important developments lately following the outbreak of a war in the Middle East. Of course, all of us are greatly concerned over this. Because of this, the president regretfully decided to cancel his visit to India. Our ambassador has notified the Indian Government of the cancellation of the visit. Similarly, our government has notified the Indian Embassy in Jakarta of this decision through diplomatic channels. Of course, the president appreciated all preparations being made by the Indian Government to welcome him. The president also expressed his apology and regret over this cancellation. [end recording]

UDP Chief Urges 'Immediate Cease-Fire' in Gulf

BK1901013291 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The United Development Party [UDP] has expressed concern over the settlement of the Gulf crisis through war because of the intransigence of the leaders of Iraq and the United States and its allies. In a press release signed by Matori Abdul Jalil, secretary general of the Central Executive Council of the United Development Party, in Jakarta yesterday the United Development Party called on the warring parties to immediately end the Gulf war. The party said that the war machines would only bring misery to mankind with disruption of the world ecological and economic order. It also called for an immediate cease-fire to avoid greater human losses.

Muslim Group Calls for Gulf War Cease-Fire

BK2201022091 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The executive board of the Nahdatul Ulema Muslim Organization has urged the U.S.-led multinational forces and Iraq to cease-fire to prevent more loss of lives and environmental damages.

The board's statement was adopted in an eight-point resolution signed by Muslim leaders Haji Yusof Hasini and Haji Ma'afof Amin and read by Khalid Mawardi, the Nahdataul Ulema board chairman, in Jakarta yesterday.

The Nahdatul Ulema also expressed hope that the Indonesian Government will actively participate in efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

According to Khalid Mawardi, after learning about the outbreak of the Gulf war, participants at the Nahdatul Ulema executive board meeting expressed regret over the United States and its allies launching the massive air raids on Iraq.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrators March to U.S. Embassy

BK2201072491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (AFP)—Around 30 youths marched to the U.S. Embassy in the first anti-American demonstration in Indonesia since last week's outbreak of the Gulf war, witnesses said.

The Indonesian demonstrators—far outnumbered by police officers, journalists and curious onlookers—shouted slogans and waved banners condemning the United States' role in leading the multinational troops in the war against Iraq.

One of the banners, placed on the embassy's gate, read "Stop multinational terrorism," while others included "Boycott USA corporations" and "U.S. is repeating Vietnam tragedy."

Others were personal attacks on U.S. President George Bush such as "Vampire Bush" and "Bush is world's butcher."

The demonstrators, calling themselves the Committee for Anti-War Action, also shouted "long live Saddam" in reference to Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn.

Two platoons of anti-riot police carrying rattan sticks and shields were sent to the scene in addition to around 100 police officers already there, but the demonstrators left peacefully after 30 minutes.

They marched past the vice presidential palace and to the Bank of America office some 500 meters (yards) away, where they stopped briefly before dispersing.

Indonesia, the world's largest Moslem nation, has officially kept a neutral stand in the conflict—abiding by a U.N. trade embargo but refusing to join the U.S. led military deployment in the Gulf—with wide support among Moslem leaders, observers said.

Tuesday's demonstration was the first open anti-U.S. expression, and followed the discovery on Friday of a bomb, later detonated by police, in the residential compound of U.S. Ambassador John C. Monjo.

Western diplomats said Tuesday that several embassies in Jakarta, notably the U.S., British and French, have been receiving anonymous threats in the past few days. One diplomat said the telephone calls were "nothing really serious."

The military has announced that it has taken extra measures to ensure the safety of all foreigners in the country.

The American Club, the U.S. Cultural Centre and the British School remained closed Tuesday while the U.S. Embassy and the American International School reopened after a four-day break, diplomats said.

The estimated 11,000 Americans in Indonesia comprise the biggest foreign community in the country.

Cambodia Talks in Bangkok by Month's End

BK2201080391 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas this morning reported to President Suharto the results of the conference to amend the nuclear test ban which was held in New York from 7 to 18 January. [passage omitted]

Ali Alatas also reported to the head of state on efforts to settle the Cambodian issue by approaching France and the

United Nations. In this context, a meeting will be held by the end of this month. Here is Minister Ali Alatas.

[Begin recording] In this context, the cochairmen assisted by the UN deputy secretary general will move forward by holding prior consultations with Vietnam and Thailand. If you can remember, prior consultations have already been held with the Cambodian parties in Paris. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The meeting will be held in Bangkok. Later, the three representatives will visit Hanoi, and the results of their visit will be discussed in Bangkok.

Asked about efforts to settle the Gulf crisis, Minister Ali Alatas said that Indonesia was considering how to settle the problem through diplomacy.

Alatas on Outcome of New York Nuclear Conference

BK2201064591 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0617 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—The conference to amend the partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into a total ban in New York on January 17-18, proceeded smoothly and the result was satisfactory although not comprehensive, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told the press on arrival at Sukarno-Hatta airport here on Monday evening.

The conference which was initiated by Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, elected Ali Alatas as conference chairman, flanked by ten vice chairmen and a secretary.

According to Alatas, the conference which was attended by 96 delegations from 117 countries as well as delegates from 15 countries and international and non-governmental organizations as observers, was opened by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

From the outset it was obvious that the main objective of the conference would not be achieved because two of the three nuclear powers which were the nuclear depositors, namely the United States and Britain, opposed the amendment.

The only nuclear power which agreed to the amendment is the Soviet Union. However, based on the treaty, agreement of all the nuclear powers is needed to adopt the amendment, he explained.

The conference to amend the partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which so far only covered tests in the atmosphere and underwater, was aimed at extending the ban into a total one with the inclusion of underground tests.

According to Alatas, there were two opposing parties in the conference.

On the one hand, the U.S. and Britain, backed by several countries of the West, were of the opinion that the ban on nuclear tests should not be tackled in the conference, while on the other hand the initiator and non-nuclear countries insisted on the conference to proceed as scheduled, he asserted.

To overcome the problem, Alatas as conference chairman tried to find a compromise formula, but failed in his endeavour, so that voting became necessary, which resulted in 75 countries in favour, two against and 19 abstain.

The conference also discussed the verification aspects of the test ban for the treaty's enforcement. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said.

Laos

PASASON Analyzes Persian Gulf Situation

BK2101153891 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[PASASON feature: "Analysis of Persian Gulf War"—date not given]

[Text] PASASON newspaper, analyzing the Persian Gulf war, has pointed out that after Israel was attacked with missiles on many occasions by Iraq during the Gulf war, Israeli leaders in Tel Aviv have announced that they might not be able to practice restraint any longer. This has caused the world's people to become ever more frightened. Peace-loving people in the world have now held antiwar demonstrations, prayed for an early end to the Gulf war, and called on all parties concerned—particularly in the United States, Iraq, the United Nations, various Arab countries, and other countries in Europe, as well as the Soviet Union—to further join in seeking ways to settle this world crisis through peaceful and diplomatic means. Now, in light of this situation, these peace-loving people now have prayed for an additional thing. Their additional wish is that this brutal war in which modern weapons are used not expand into a world war.

Immediately after being informed that Israel was attacked by Iraq with missiles, the United States sent troops with modern weapons and other military equipment to Tel Aviv to help Israel intercept Iraq's Scud missiles of Iraq. It has also asked Israel to further practice restraint and absolutely not take any retaliatory action against Iraq. At the same time, leaders of various countries—the president of the Soviet Union and leaders of various European countries, such as Britain and France—have also asked Israel not to react against Iraq.

Is this a way leading to an end of the Persian Gulf war? It is probably a means to prevent the present flaming war from expanding and developing into a war between the various Arab countries and the United States or even becoming World War III, as already viewed by many political commentators. It is certain that if Israel takes part in the war, the various Arab countries, which have opposed the Israeli Zionists and the United States, will closely cooperate and take the side of Iraq in this war. When that time comes, who can predict to what degree the Gulf war will escalate, as Turkey, member of the NATO group, has already participated in the war. How about unified Germany? What will it do then? Will this become a case in which other members of the Warsaw Pact, including the Soviet Union, also take part in the war? All these are the topics now widely discussed and criticized by politicians in the international political arena.

But no one can tell what will happen in reality. Nevertheless, the world's people have earnestly wished to see the Persian Gulf war come to an early end and to see this crucial international problem settled through peaceful and diplomatic means. This is because the war, if it is prolonged further, will only bring about great losses, both in lives and property, to all parties. Since the war began, during the past few days, all parties have already suffered great losses of life of civilians and soldiers. Therefore, if it expands and develops into World War III, what will be left besides dust and vestiges of war?

New Palestinian 'Ambassador' Presents Credentials

BK1901044091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Republic, received credentials from (Salim Omar Saleh), new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the state of Palestine to Laos, who replaces former ambassador (Sayyid Abdullah), at the Presidential Office yesterday afternoon.

SPA Delegation Arrives in Beijing 20 Jan

BK2201052291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Beijing Radio reported yesterday afternoon that the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], led by Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the SPA, arrived in Kunming in Yunnan Province by a special plane to pay an official friendship visit to the PRC at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress [NPC] of the PRC.

Mrs. Li Guiying, chairman of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee, together with members of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress; (Hang Shusan), chairman of the People's Congress Standing Committee of Kunming, (?Lu Zengling), deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Yunnan Province, and other leaders were on hand at the airport to welcome the LPDR's SPA delegation.

Yu Wen, member of the PRC's NPC Standing Committee, left Beijing for Kunming to welcome Laos' SPA delegation.

The report also said that Nouhak Phoumsavan and his entourage would visit some districts in southern China before proceeding to Beijing.

Philippines

Iraqi Diplomat Vows To Use 'All Means' To Win

OW1901060891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan. 19 KYODO—Iraq will "use all means" to win the war with the United States and allied forces, an Iraqi diplomat said Saturday in Manila.

Consul General Muwafak al-'Ani warned that Iraq "has a lot of surprises for the Americans and you will hear some soon."

"We are going to use all means, we are not ruling out anything, but we are going to use the right time," al-'Ani said when asked if Iraq is likely to unleash chemical or nuclear weapons.

Al-'Ani also said the war in the Persian Gulf "will be a long war." He said Iraqis have no estimate of how long the war would last but that "our only estimate is victory."

The diplomat also said that according to official news the embassy has received from Baghdad, 64 Israeli jets have landed in Saudi Arabia since 4:30 A.M. Friday (Baghdad time) to join multinational forces in attacking Iraq.

He said Iraqi forces monitored four jets landing in the Saudi border at 4:30 A.M., followed by the arrival at a Saudi Arabian military base of 60 more Israeli jets.

Asked if this would prompt more Iraqi attacks on Israel, Al-'Ani said "you will hear some soon."

Al-'Ani claimed that contrary to figures released by the Pentagon, Iraq has downed 94 jets and 23 cruise missiles launched by the United States and the allied forces.

He also claimed there were 12 cruise missiles which did not explode and which Iraq will use against the multinational forces.

Twenty-three Iraqi civilians have been killed and 66 others injured in the aerial assault in Baghdad, he said. Al-'Ani said he had no figures on military casualties side.

Bomb Explodes Near U.S. Cultural Center, Makati

Iraqi Passport Found on Site

BK1901155091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan 19 (AFP)—A man believed to be an Iraqi national was killed and another suspected Iraqi was injured Saturday when a bomb they were carrying went off in Manila's financial district of Makati, police said.

The bomb, which blew a basketball-sized hole in the sidewalk, went off just a few meters away from the building housing the U.S. Information Service and cultural center.

Police said the remains of the slain suspect were found scattered all over the area.

The other suspect suffered injuries to his face, hands and legs and was rushed to the hospital. Police said he was not in a serious condition but reporters were not allowed to see him.

Police investigators said a battered Iraqi passport found at the scene identified the slain man as Ahmad J. Ahmad.

The other man reportedly would not speak to investigators but police sources said he had identified himself as Abdul Zaid, although they were checking if he was listed in the government's registration of Middle East nationals.

Police would not say what the men's alleged target was, but commentators on the private radio station DZXL said the incident was related to the Gulf war.

The government of President Corazon Aquino, which has supported the multinational forces battling Baghdad, heightened security last week due to fears that pro-Iraqi terrorists might stage attacks here.

Earlier this week, immigration officials warned Middle Eastern nationals against causing any trouble in the country.

Trade Building Damaged

OW1901141491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan. 19 KYODO—A bomb, suspected to have been set off by an Iraqi national, exploded near the United States Information Center in the financial district of Makati Saturday, killing at least one person and seriously injuring another, police said.

A passport belonging to an Iraqi national was found at the site of the explosion, where pieces of human flesh and a dismembered human foot was also found, Makati Police Chief Remy Macaspac said.

Macaspac said police could not yet determine whether an Iraqi national by the name of Ahmad J. Ahmad, whose passport was found near the site, was responsible for the explosion.

The bomb, which blasted at around 6:30 P.M., left a 33 by 60 centimeter crater in a sidewalk about 100 meters from the U.S. Embassy Information Center and shattered glass panels on the nearby Philippine Trade and Industry Department building.

A man injured in the blast was rushed to a nearby hospital, but refused to answer questions put by policemen or reporters. He sustained wounds to the face and feet.

Patrolman Rene Ocampo said two persons could have died in the explosion, but this could not immediately be confirmed because the human body parts which littered the explosion site could not be identified.

Ocampo said the assailants could have been walking and tinkering with the bomb when the device exploded prematurely.

Police Question Suspect

BK2001131691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Undated, Jan 20 (AFP)—Police in the Philippines grilled a suspected Iraqi terrorist Sunday about a deadly bomb blast in Manila, and revealed they have urged U.S. servicemen to keep off the streets for their lives' sake.

Terrorist fears also prevailed in Pakistan, following a blast in a Rawalpindi movie house that killed five people and left 50 others injured, some seriously.

In Bangkok, focus of what the U.S. State Department has called a "credible threat" of a terrorist attack, heavily armed Thai soldiers were deployed [at] the U.S., British, Australian and Israeli Embassies.

The soldiers, many in jungle fatigues, carried M-16 assault rifles and grenade launchers, and sources said bodyguards had also been assigned to Western ambassadors in the Thai capital.

Anti-war voices in Asia were muted Sunday, though a demonstration was reported in Tokyo.

There about 100 people marched through the city center, condemning the Gulf war and opposing any potential deployment of Japanese troops in the U.S.-led allied war against Iraq.

In Manila, police said they were interrogating an Iraqi national in connection with Saturday's blast near the U.S. Cultural Center that left a compatriot dead.

Police Lieutenant Jack Nayra said the suspect, who has alternately given his name as Abdul Zaid or Abdul Sattar Hisham, was being questioned in a police hospital where he is recovering from slight shrapnel wounds.

No details of the interrogation were made public, though Lieut. Nayra said police planned to charge him with illegal possession of explosives.

Police intelligence sources in Angeles City, site of the U.S. Air Force's vast Clark Airbase, revealed that Americans and other Caucasians have been told to stay off local streets as much as possible.

They have been warned that they could be the targets of assassination attempts, according to the sources.

Clark spokesmen said personnel at the base and their dependents have been confined to housing areas since the outbreak of the Gulf war last Thursday.

The Philippines, host to big U.S. air and naval facilities, is a key stepping stone along the supply line between the United States and the multinational forces arrayed against Iraq in the Gulf.

In Pakistan, security was tightened in public areas following Saturday's fatal bomb blast in a cinema in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, that some politicans were linking to the Gulf crisis.

"Since the start of the Gulf war, certain elements are conspiring to create chaos in Pakistan," said Badshah Khan Afridi, a member of the Punjab provincial assembly. [passage omitted]

Third Suspect Arrested

OW2201095391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan. 22 KYODO—Philippine authorities said Tuesday they have arrested a third Iraqi citizen in Saturday's explosion near a U.S. Information Center.

One Iraqi was killed and another injured as they were allegedly taking a bomb to the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center, a U.S. library and information center in the Makati business district.

The premature blast left a small crater in a sidewalk a block from the center, a unit of the U.S. Information Service.

Iraqi Embassy First Secretary Muwafak al-'Ani has been ordered out of the country for his suspected links with the explosion.

A confidential military report obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE charged he has been recruiting Filipinos for possible terrorist activities in the Philippines.

The report also said there may be a working relationship between the ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the Philippines, Muhammad Hasan Hamdun, and Al-'Ani, who is said to be taking orders from Baghdad to conduct terrorist activities in the Philippines.

Al-'Ani, who was ordered to leave the country by Thursday noon, has denied involvement in the attempted bomb attack.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the government will arrest and deport Al-'Ani if he insists on staying in the country past the deadline.

A senior defense department official said all Iraqi and PLO diplomatic officials and staff are under surveillance.

The man injured in the explosion, Abd-al-Kadhim Sa'ad, was arrested after the explosion and is being held at a military hospital.

The latest suspect was identified as Hisham Hikmat Abdul Sattar, 25, a political science student in Manila.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Alfredo Lim told reporters that Abdul Sattar is a close associate of Al-'Ani.

Police said Abdul Sattar was arrested Monday along with his brother Husham, 26, also a student.

The Abdul Sattar brothers, whose father is an Iraqi diplomat posted in Somalia, have denied any role in the bombing.

"I want to stay here to clear my name and to be able to continue my studies," the elder Abdul Sattar told reporters.

The confidential military report quoted a "reliable source" as saying Al-'Ani had been "awaiting orders from Baghdad to initiate terroristic activities in the country targeting U.S. facilities and personnel, and those of the U.S. Gulf coalition partners."

The report also said Al-'Ani has been recruiting Filipinos, especially those with military training such as former Muslim rebels and armed forces veterans, and training them for terrorist activities.

It said Al-'Ani has met with supporters of the late deposed President Ferdinand Marcos at the Iraqi Embassy to discuss holding protests against U.S. bases in the Philippines.

Diplomat's Sons Investigated

HK2201115391 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] is thoroughly investigating two sons of an Iraqi diplomat who were arrested after authorities found chemicals, used for making bombs, in their apartment. The Iraqi brothers are suspected of involvement in the bombing of the Thomas Jefferson Library in Makati. They are the sons of the Iraqi ambassador to Somalia, Hikmat Abdul Sattar. Here is Ron Bayani with the details:

[Begin recording] The Iraqi brothers were identified as Hisham Hikmat Abdul Sattar and Husham Sattar. They are now detained at the NBI. In an interview, Husham Sattar said he and his brother are willing to help the police in their investigation because they allegedly know nothing about the bombing. The NBI cornered the two Iraqis through a telephone number mentioned by the wounded Iraqi bomber, (Kadim Sa'ad). Attorney Antonio Aragon, NBI deputy director for intelligence services, said they have to decide first what charges have to be filed against the two Iraqi brothers. [end recording]

U.S. Libraries Closed

OW2001125591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan. 20 KYODO—The United States Embassy announced Sunday it is closing U.S. libraries in three Philippine cities until further notice as part of stepped up security precautions ordered a day after a botched bombing attempt by suspected Iraqi terrorists.

"We're treating this (bombing) as part of a terrorist attempt on Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center," U.S. Embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager told reporters. "We have no confirmation as yet if this is part of an organized Iraqi plot but they have threatened to target U.S. installations around the world.

"We are heightening our security posture and we're working closely with the Philippine Government to control Iraqi terrorist activities here."

An Arab-looking national was killed and an Iraqi national was injured on Saturday when a bomb they allegedly were planning to set off at the U.S. library and information center in the financial district of Makati prematurely exploded.

Police said a passport was recovered from the scene of the blast with the name of one Ahmad J. Ahmad, whose address was listed as Baghdad, Iraq.

It was not clear whether the passport belonged to the Arab-looking national whose face was disfigured and body dismembered by the blast which left a 14-inch deep crater in a concrete sidewalk, a block away from the U.S. library.

The body was found on the roof of a Philippine diplomat's house an hour after the explosion.

Entries in the passport showed that Ahmad arrived in Manila on December 8, 1990, and was originally scheduled to leave by January 13, 1991. His stay was extended by the Immigration Bureau to February 13, 1991.

The injured Iraqi student, Abdul Zaid, was taken to hospital but was later transferred to a military facility under heavy guard.

Schrager said that apart from closing the libraries in Manila and Cebu and Davao in the southern Philippines, the embassy has also advised Americans to take additional precautions to guard their personal security and avoid large public gatherings.

Meanwhile, a committee composed of three police agencies has been formed to monitor the activities of Iraqi nationals in the country, a committee source said.

Iraqi Consul General Muwafak al-'Ani said he has instructed all Iraqi nationals to keep in close touch with the Iraqi Embassy but said he knew nothing about Saturday's bombing incident except what he read in the newspapers.

In Zamboanga City, 850 kilometers south of Manila, the military's Southern Command has ordered troops on full alert to guard against attacks by pro-Iraqi Muslim rebels in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

Muslims pressing for an independent homeland have maintained their silence on the ongoing Persian Gulf war, and have continued to respect a "cessation of hostilities" forged in 1987 between Muslim guerrillas and Manila.

Iraqi Envoy Declared Persona Non Grata

HK2101085991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] A diplomat from the Iraqi Embassy in Manila was declared persona non grata by the Philippine Government, and was given 72 hours to leave the country. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus identified the Iraqi diplomat as First Secretary Mufawak al-'Ani. Manglapus said Al-'Ani was involved in the Makati bombing explosion last Saturday afternoon in which an Iraqi national was killed and another wounded. Manglapus added that Under Secretary Manuel Yan gave Al-'Ani the note verbale declaring him persona non grata. Manglapus explained that the government action against Al-'Ani is not directed at the Iraqi Government, but at a person who abused his diplomatic privileges. More than 100 Filipinos are still in Iraq and more than 2,000 in Kuwait. Manglapus stated that in the coming days, he will present evidence proving Al-'Ani's involvement in the Makati bombing.

Meanwhile, in reaction to the expulsion of Iraqi Embassy First Secretary Mufawak al-'Ani, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said she will order the arrest of the diplomat if he is still in the country after the 72-hour limit for his stay expires. Domingo said she will personally deport Al-'Ani if he refuses to leave the country as ordered by the Philippine Government, adding she hopes this matter will not go to the extent of her ordering Al-'Ani's arrest.

Aquino Remarks on Expulsion

HK2201092991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino clarified that relations between the Philippines and Iraq will continue. The president issued the clarification due to speculation on the effects of the expulsion of Iraqi Consul General Muwafak al-'Ani. The president said the declaration of the Iraqi official persona non grata was directed only at the official and not at the country of Iraq:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] We still continue to have diplomatic relations with the Iraqi Government, and this is just as you have heard, it has been declared that he is a persona non grata. So this is directed at this person, not at the government of his country. [end recording]

More on Aquino Remarks

HK2101091591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino asserted there are enough security measures to thwart any attempt by pro-Iraqi terrorists to attack their targets in the country. In a statement, the president said Malacanang is aware of the expulsion and declaration as persona non grata of Iraq's consul general in the country. The president also said the National Bureau of Investigation has arrested another suspect in the bombing of the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center in Makati. No details were given. President Aquino added the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation is closely watching the movements of foreigners planning to sow terror in the country, in relation to the Middle East conflict.

It is recalled that on Saturday, Iraqi terrorists attempted to bomb the American library in Makati, in which one died and one was seriously wounded.

Press Secretary on Expulsion

HK2201060391 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III said the [words indistinct] decision to expel the Iraqi Consul Mufawak al-'Ani is justified. He said the Department of Foreign Affairs would not have made this decision if there was not sufficient evidence. According to him, military intelligence reports say that Mufawak al- 'Ani was the mediator who arranged for the tickets of the two Iraqi nationals involved in the terrorist act. He added that the Iraqis were bound for

Bangkok but Mufawak al-'Ani extended their stay in the Philippines for unknown reasons.

Call Threatens Explosion at Japanese Embassy

HK2201124191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1200 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The Japanese Chancery suspended business transactions for two hours this morning following a telephone call warning of a bomb explosion at 0930 [0130 GMT]. According to chancery operator Mrs. Annie Managad, the caller had a foreign accent. Earlier, another caller had phoned asking if the chancery's visa section had opened for business. The second caller gave the warning of a bomb explosion at 0930 this morning. However, a bomb squad expert declared the place safe after an hour of searching for the bomb.

Immigration Says Iraq Recruiting Mercenaries

HK1901084591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The Immigration Department's intelligence division confirmed a report stating that there are Iraqi nationals in the country recruiting Filipino mercenaries for their Armed Forces. These Iraqi nationals are reportedly using a van to tour poor areas of Metro Manila and recruit Filipinos to be sent to the Gulf region to fight for Iraq in the war. It was learned that these recruiters are willing to pay $10,000 for each mercenary recruited for the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Intelligence chief Remy Sta. Ana, and agent Plaridel Hernandez, stated that the Iraqi nationals eluded arrest in a raid to capture them on Arlegui. The Immigration Department has not disclosed the identities of the Iraqi nationals but has assured of a continuous search for them.

Officials Comment on Security, Gulf Situation

Ramos Says Forces 'Fully Mobilized'

HK2101034791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Jan 91 pp 1, 20

[by Wilma Yamzon]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said yesterday security forces in the country are fully mobilized to maintain public order and ensure national security, in view of the raging war in the Middle East.

At the same time, he urged the people "to look at the present crisis arising from the Gulf war as an opportunity to improve preparedness, increase productivity, and enhance self-reliance program this year."

Speaking at the Second Regional Conference of the League of Barangay Councilmen of the Philippines, Ramos said the government is taking necessary steps to meet the country's problems as a result of the Middle East conflict.

He cited the role of local officials in implementing government programs that call for tough actions against business manipulators and hoarders.

He said provincial governors, city mayors, and barangay leaders are taking part in preventing scrupulous practices by traders such as profiteering and hoarding.

"Barangay leaders are the main implementors of government programs being in the best position to persuade or convince their constituents to actively participate in government undertakings," the defense chief said.

However, he said in an emergency situation like this, people should not panic "because when panic reigns, the enemies of society get the upper hand and we can only expect the worst to happen."

He said President Aquino, through Executive order 444, had designated provincial governors and city and municipal mayors to implement contingency measures being taken by the government in minimizing the adverse effect of the war in the Gulf.

He recommended steps which local leaders can adopt at critical time. These are:

1. Strengthening the Local Disaster Coordinating Councils by training their members and volunteers on rescue and relief operations.

2. Organizing a barangay intelligence network to detect unusual movements or strange personalities.

3. Formulating a barangay defense plan to cope up with natural or man-made emergency cases.

4. Enhancing the "katarungang pambarangay" (barangay justice) program in resolving neighborhood disputes.

Country 'Major' Terrorist Target

HK2201103391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The Philippines is now the major target of terrorist groups from the Middle East and Japan. Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo declared that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's plan to export terrorism to countries supporting the UN resolution is now operational. Commissioner Domingo said two Iraqi and Jordanian nationals, who arrived yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and declared they had come to the country for sightseeing, were refused entry by immigration officials at the airport. According to Commissioner Domingo, the arrival of Iraqi nationals from other countries amid the Middle East conflict, in which Iraq is fighting against the U.S.-led multinational forces, is suspicious. Domingo said the Philippines may be the primary target of terrorist groups because of the presence of the U.S. military facilities in the country. In view of this, Domingo has tightened the entry of foreigners from the Middle East and Japan. The Japanese Red Army has pledged it will help Husayn in exporting terrorism to other countries.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Immigration and Deportation [CID] is studying the status of Iraqi nationals in the country to determine whether they are genuine students.

According to Commissioner Domingo, they will all be picked up and deported the moment the CID learns they are no longer students.

In related news, the CID commissioner has ordered all colleges and universities in the country to submit their lists of foreign students, particularly Iraqis and Palestinians. Senator Lety Ramos- Shahani, for her part, said it is just proper to deport Al-'Ani if there is strong evidence of his involvement in the bombing attempt incident. In an interview with DZRH this morning, Shahani stated the Iraqis may retaliate, but can no longer do this because the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad had been closed due to the outbreak of war. The only thing they could do is to launch terroristic activities on our foreign embassies in other countries, should they pursue their threat.

Agents Assigned to Boarding Houses

HK2101102791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo has assigned agents to all boarding houses suspected of housing Iraqi, Palestinian, and Israeli students in Manila and in the provinces where many Iraqis and Palestinians live in hotels. Domingo's action is aimed at closely monitoring the movements of the Iraqis, Palestinians and Arab nationals living in the country. This move is also in relation to the failed attempt by two Iraqi nationals to bomb the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center in Buendia, Makati last Saturday, which killed one and seriously wounded another.

It is recalled that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn issued an order to his Iraqi brothers to launch terroristic activities on any establishments owned by the United States. The failed bombing of the Thomas Jefferson building was just a sign that the Iraqis have begun their operation. Because of this, the movements of the Iraqis are now under close watch. The Commission on Immigration and Deportation [CID] earlier reported that four Iraqi terrorists are planning to blow up U.S. establishments.

Meanwhile, all the Muslim embassies in Makati are now under tight guard by soldiers deployed by the Capital Regional Command and the Metropolitan Police Field Force in order to prevent any terrorism which may be launched by the warring countries like Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, and the United States. We learned from a security guard that even before the Gulf war started, the Israeli Embassy had been receiving bomb threats, but no explosion has ever occurred.

We met Commissioner Domingo and learned that one of the three persons who attempted to blow up the Thomas Jefferson building was identified as Abdul Sattar and is reportedly a child of an Iraqi ambassador to Somalia. He has been arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] and is presently under interrogation by the NBI through Attorney Aragon.

In related news, Commissioner Andrea Domingo tightened the entry of Iraqi nationals to the country, in relation to an incident Saturday afternoon in which a bomb carried by two Iraqis exploded in Makati, killing one and seriously wounding the other. Domingo announced that immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport are tightly interviewing Iraqi nationals on their motives in entering the country. The commissioner said the CID has refused two Iraqi nationals entry due to lack of good reason to enter the country, except for being tourists. The attempt by the Iraqi nationals to enter the country as tourists at this point in time, when Iraq is involved in the Gulf war, is doubtful, Domingo stressed. She added that the CID is also watching the entry of Palestinians because the PLO is supportive of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's call for exporting terrorism to countries supporting the UN resolution.

Police Step Up Patrols

HK2101034991 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Jan 91 p 20

[by Robert R. Requintina]

[Text] Chief Superintendent Marino L. Filart, Metropolitan Police Force (MPF) director, ordered the police district superintendents yesterday to step up their drive against terrorists who are out to carry terroristic activities in Metro Manila in tandem with the Gulf crisis.

Filart made the directive following a powerful bomb blast that rocked Makati's financial district last Saturday night which killed a man and wounding an Iraqi national.

Filart said that the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the National Capital Region (NCR) is ready to provide security to foreign dignitaries if they are threatened.

The MPF chief said the PNP-NCR has strengthened its patrol operations in Metro Manila, particularly in Makati where many foreigners are staying.

Security was also tightened in major government installations and foreign embassies particularly those countries engaged in the Middle East war.

Intelligence report earlier said the terrorists are out to launch terroristic activities like bombings in support to the shooting war in the Middle East, Filart said.

Filart said that a battalion of law enforcers were distributed to the police districts to augment patrol operations especially at night in posh villages.

Law enforcers are not ruling out the possibility that rightist and leftist elements will also take advantage of the Gulf situation, he said.

Filart said that it is also possible that checkpoints be revived if the terrorists will resort to another wave of terrorism.

Checkpoints have been ordered removed to facilitate the smooth flow in the delivery of basic services from the provinces to Metro Manila.

Both the military and the police have been on red alert since the shooting war in the Gulf started for possible terroristic attacks.

Foreign Secretary Manglapus Cancels U.S. Trip

HK2201032191 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 22 Jan 91 p 8

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, yesterday scheduled to leave for Washington "to speed up American understanding of the Philippine position (put forward at the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks [PACT])," instead called off his trip.

He cancelled his plans, he said, "because of the situation in the Gulf."

That may be true but not too accurate. Actually, a senior government official revealed "he was supposed to meet with (U.S. special negotiator Richard) Armitage but Armitage sent a message suggesting it would not be an opportune time for Mr. Manglapus to visit as everybody in Washington is presently focused on the war against Iraq."

DETAILED LISTING

Instead, Mr. Armitage asked Mr. Manglapus for "a detailed listing" of what the Philippines expects "a compensation package to consist of," the source said.

Mr. Manglapus said he was communicating regularly with the U.S. negotiator and that there were "several interesting developments" with regard to the negotiations.

He hopes the next PACT round will "take place as early as possible in February." The Philippines, he said, "has made it clear we want to continue talking no matter what happens in the Middle East."

The source said Mr. Armitage had pointed out that the U.S. Senate would resist a package being termed as outright "rent" for the facilities.

The Philippines, Mr. Manglapus said, was thinking of the term "consideration."

"It would be more dignified," a senior Philipine diplomat commented, "if we stress technology transfers, military upgrading and trade arrangements rather than funds for budget support."

"The Americans might respect us more then," he remarked.

House Members Endorse Resolution on Gulf Action

HK2201033591 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 22 Jan 91 pp 1, 19

[By Rod L. Villa]

[Excerpt] Members of the House of Representatives unanimously endorsed yesterday a resolution expressing support for United Nations resolutions and seeking an early end to the Middle East War.

Authored principally by Assistant Majority Floor Leader Raul S. Roco (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Camarines Sur), the House resolved as well to support the multinational forces led by the United States against Iraq.

The House commended the restraint and sacrifices of the Israeli people, recognizing the inherent right of every nation to self- defense.

The solution urged Arab nations in the anti-Iraq alliance to keep their commitment to the solidarity of the multinational forces, citing the need for a lasting solution to the historic concerns and regional issues in the Middle East.

Terrorism, the resolution declared, must be condemned by all nations which must contribute meaningfully to a lasting international peace. [passage omitted]

Senators Call for Cease-Fire in Gulf

HK2201033191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 22 Jan 91 p 19

[Text] Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the government yesterday to call on the UN Security Council to declare a truce in the Middle East war to prevent the hostilities from spreading to other countries.

In a related development, Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani filed Resolution No. 1068 directing the Senate committees on foreign relations and economic affairs to conduct an inquiry on what the Philippine foreign policy should be concerning the situation in the Middle East.

Pimentel told a joint meeting of Rotary clubs of Manila that it is now time to assess the damage done by the carpet bombing of U.S.- led multinational forces on Baghdad and other areas in Iraq.

"It is a very urgent matter to work for the cessation of hostilities because of the threat of Iraq to draw Israel into the conflict," Pimentel said, citing the continuous launching of Scud missiles by the Iraqis against targets in Israel.

The government should pursue this, he pointed out, to bring about a breathing spell from the round-the-clock bombardment which has claimed many lives and untold damage to property.

"If Israel is drawn (into the war), we will be hard hit by the economic repercussions of the Gulf War," Pimentel said.

He noted that it was the UN Security Council which worked out the truce in the Indonesia war in 1947, the Palestinian conflict in 1948, the Korean war in 1953, the Sinai hostilities in 1956, the Yemen battle in 1959, and the Cyprus conflict in 1963.

Pimentel said the U.S. government is spending $1 billion a day for Operation Desert Storm, which could very well be channeled to productive efforts that would instead benefit a lot of people in the world.

"The implication of an immediate ceasefire for the Philippines is the stabilization of the price of oil. But we also wish that diplomatic efforts be tried once more to effect lasting peace in the Gulf," the senator said.

Senator Shahani said that in light of events such as the Gulf War and the U.S. bases negotiations which are affecting the country so deeply, the government must prepare not only prepare to deal with the crisis.

She called for a comprehensive policy that will "guide our actions during and after the critical period in international politics."

The senator cited the following factors which necessitate the formulation of policy:

1. The hardships being experienced by Filipinos in the evacuation efforts in the Middle East.

2. The need for dollar remittances of overseas contract workers as balanced against the duty to protect those in the war zone.

3. The Philippines' dependence on that region for 80 percent of oil requirements.

4. The fact that 10 percent of the country's population consists of Muslim Filipinos, and that three members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei—are Muslim countries.

5. The ongoing negotiations for the U.S. bases, the area of operations of which extend up to the Persian Gulf.

Labor Secretary Reports on Saudi Arabian Visit

HK2201055791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0515 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Statement by Ruben Torres, secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment, upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from a mission to Saudi Arabia—live, in English]

[Text] Good afternoon. The Gulf crisis provided our government another occasion to highlight and emphasize its concern and commitment over the safety and welfare of our new and unsung heroes—the overseas contract workers [OCW]. As all of you are aware of, upon the instructions of the president, a team left last January 6 for the Middle East with the mission of looking into the situation and the conditions of Filipino contract workers in that region. The mission was mainly tasked to review existing contingency plans with the safety of the workers as the overriding consideration.

To carry out its objective, the mission visited and met with the labor ministers and all of the officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. In all these meetings, we have secured the commitments and assurances of their support to ensure the safety of our workers. Let me point out that such assurances include the existence of a national contingency plan with a full Filipinos equal treatment vis-a-vis their own nationals in any eventuality. On top of this, the United Arab Emirates, the Omani, and Qatari Governments have also expressed their willingness to share the holy centers-...[passage indistinct due to transmission trouble] ..and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are working as planned, the relocation of workers to safer areas in the eastern province has been effectively carried out in coordination with an assistance of the civil defense authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The absence of any report of casualty from among all OCW's can be attributed to the strict implementation and of strict compliance with the plan. As we have repeatedly stated, we have to closely coordinate with the Office of Civil Defense to ensure orderly movement and safety of our workers. After this, I shall proceed to give the president a full report of the mission. I will convey to her the deep appreciation of the host government, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the actions taken by our government relative to the Gulf situation. Thank you very much.

Workers' Dispatch to Middle East Suspended

HK2201032791 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jan 91 p 3

[By Cherry Velarde and Bert Castro, with additional report from Joey Caburnida]

[Text] Starting yesterday, the government temporarily stopped the sending of Filipino contract workers to the Middle East because all flights were suspended due to the ongoing Gulf War.

Overseas Employment Administrator Jose Sarmiento told the Kapihan sa [coffee forum at the] Manila Hotel that affected by the order were 20,000 Filipinos whose papers had already been approved by his office.

Of the total, he said, 16,000 were bound for Saudi Arabia whose eastern provinces are considered "danger zones" in the war.

In Malacanang, meanwhile, officials admitted it was nearly futile to evacuate the Filipinos working in the war zones, particularly in Saudi Arabia's eastern provinces.

Executive Secretary oscar Orbos told reporters that for one thing, many of the Filipinos there refused to be evacuated.

Moreover, he said, the Filipinos were manning vital facilities like hospitals, electric plants, telephone firms, and water systems.

Malacanang assured that their Arab employers had already provided the workers with gas masks, food and water.

But despite the assurance, an official of a non-governmental organization [NGO] said the government's contingency plan had failed to consider the plight of about 90,000 Filipinos working for small companies in eastern Saudi Arabia.

Henry Roxas, of the NGO Task Force-Middle East, a coalition of private groups servicing the needs of Filipino overseas workers in the region, said these workers should be given priority attention and should be moved to safer grounds.

Of the estimated 115,000 workers to be evacuated, only 35,00, mostly connected with big firms, were included in the governments evacuation plan, he added.

At the same time, Sarmiento said they would lift the temporary suspension of the dispatch of workers to the Middle East once flights to that region resume, except for eastern Saudi Arabia.

He stressed Filipino workers would be sent there "until the threat in the area is gone."

The suspension of the deployment has been sought by concerned officials and private sector representatives since the eruption of the Gulf crisis.

But it was only last week that the labor department stopped the sending of workers to eastern Saudi Arabia.

Labor department officials explained then they they could not stop the deployment since others were going to areas away from the war zones.

Besides, they said, there was need to protect the highly-favored Filipino labor market in the Middle East, especially in Saudi Arabia were about 390,000 of the 500,000 Filipinos based in the region stay.

Sarmiento described the temporary suspension as unfortunate, saying that the first quarter of every year is the "peak season" for Filipino workers to return to their jobs.

He also said that the demand for workers in the Middle East remains high despite the crisis.

But he urged that the government is strengthening its efforts to get an bigger chunk of the labor market there, noting that despite the ongoing war, total overseas deployment dropped only 25% per month from an overage of 16,000 workers to just 11,000 per month.

Sarmiento added that the "European option" for Filipino workers has "diminished" because (East) Europeans "are the priority," referring to job opportunities in the European Community.

He said: "This gives us the Asia-Pacific region. I am optimistic about the chances of Filipinos in Taiwan, Japan and (South) Korea. But the Middle East remains the single biggest overseas employer of the Filipinos."

In Malacanang, Orbos admitted that the government is not receiving any news about Filipino workers caught by the war.

But he assured their relatives here that the government, in coordination with Saudi officials, is closely monitoring their whereabouts.

Aquino Denies U.S. Consultation on Bases Use

HK2201121791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan 22 (AFP)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino Tuesday said Washington never consulted her government on the use of major U.S. military bases in the Philippines to support the U.S.-led war effort against Iraq.

"They are supposed to consult with us in case they will be needing the facilities, but they have not done so," Mrs. Aquino told a news conference.

Clark Air Base, the headquarters of the U.S. 13th Air Force, and Subic Naval Base, the main supply and repair yard of the Japan-based U.S. 7th Fleet, are considered key links in the supply line between the U.S. mainland and multinational forces arrayed against Baghdad in the Persian Gulf.

The largest amphibious task force to set off from the U.S. West Coast made a one-week stopover at Subic for training and resupply before heading for the Gulf January 2.

Mrs. Aquino insisted that Manila's only contribution to the war was a medical mission to Saudi Arabia.

"In a sense, you could say that we are also involved in the defense of Saudi Arabia because our workers are still there, are still continuing in their tasks. They are involved in hospital work, all in peacekeeping work," she said.

Senator Discourages Bases Use in Gulf War

HK2201060591 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada urged the government not to allow the United States to use its military bases here in launching military operations against Iraq. According to him, the government should consider the effects of this move on the Filipino overseas contract workers in the Middle East. The country's need for oil, security of Muslim communities, and the use of U.S. bases in a war are against the provisions in the Constitution and opposed to the Republic of the Philippines-U.S. military agreement.

Armed Forces Chief Concerned Over Senate Stance

HK2201032591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 22 Jan 91 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] General Renato S. De Villa, the outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff, yesterday expressed deep concern over a Senate resolution seeking the abrogation of the Philippines-United States Mutual Defense Treaty.

"I do believe that it is premature to terminate it at this time," De Villa told defense reporters during a news briefing at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. De Villa, who will formally bow out of the military service today, said the country is still benefitting from the treaty, which has been in effect for over 40 years now.

De Villa was referring to a year-old Senate resolution field by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile seeking the abrogation of the defense pact. Of the 17 senators in the foreign relations committee, only six have expressed support for the measure.

"We can study the ramifiations and the resultant effects of terminating such a mutual defense treaty but personally I think the Philippines will have to have to get stronger first, particularly in regard to its economy and its ability, to support a model armed forces," explained De Villa.

De Villa stressed that the country, particularly the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is "still enjoying the umbrella" of the pact which ensures mutual security in case of foreign invasion. He said the pact gives the military a chance to concentrate more on the internal treats confronting the country today by providing the AFP with "very useful and credible total defense program."

De Villa added that it will take years for the Philippine military to develop what he called a "credible external defense program," but he said the AFP plans to develop one within this decade. He said, however, that all would depend on the economy.

At this point, De Villa said there is no immediate threat in the Asia-Pacific region but nevertheless stressed the need to develop the region's defense posture to secure the Asia-Pacific region which he predicted would become commercially active later this decade.

He said the defense department and the AFP have always focused on enhancing a self-reliant defense posture, SRDP, or what Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos termed as "the key to our realization of true sovereignty, military capability and national pride."

"While we continue our alliance with the U.S. under the mutual defense treaty, we must face the reality of the eventual phaseout of the U.S. military facilities in our country," Ramos said during the inauguration of the country's first Integrated Defense Manufacturing Plant (IDMP) in Tanay, Rizal yesterday.

Projected to help the country in its efforts toward self-reliance in local defense efforts, IDMP is also projected to make up for the possible reduction of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) in case of U.S. bases phaseout.

"A significant means of fostering defense cooperation is through bilateral of regional development of defense manufacturing industries that will result in the establishment of a common source of defense materials and supplies among ASEAN countries," Ramos said.

Thailand

Government Reacts to Reports of Terrorist Threats

Chatchai Puts Military on Alert

BK1901013991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jan 91 p A3

[By Kokhet Chantaloetlak]

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has ordered the military to be on alert for possible terrorist attacks resulting from the Persian Gulf war, a military source said yesterday.

The source said the order was given on Thursday when Chatchai convened an emergency meeting of the Defence Council at the Defence Ministry to assess the Gulf war situation.

The meeting was attended by Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Navy Commander in Chief Adm Praphat Kritsanachan. Absent was Air Force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, who was visiting the Philippines. The three military chiefs led about 30 senior armed forces officials to the meeting.

The source, who was among the officials attending the meeting, said Chatchai asked the three armed forces to monitor the war situation on an around-the-clock basis. The premier asked the military chiefs to make sure that officials at the Supreme Command's Joint Operation Centre and the three armed forces' operation centres took turns in monitoring the situation.

Chatchai also asked the military centres to ensure that military radio communications were effective in case of emergency.

The source said the military would allow police to handle any terrorist situation and would step in only if needed.

Fear of terrorist attacks are a result of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's threat of sending "death to every corner of the world."

The assessment made during the meeting of the military chiefs was that the war would last about seven days because the US-dominated allied air barrage could not wipe out all Iraqi weapons immediately. They said the remaining weapons would help Iraq to fight on a little longer, according to the source, who asked not to be named.

His statement was backed by Suchinda who said yesterday that the premier asked the military to increase security during the war.

Several military experts yesterday gave their opinions on the war situation.

Air Marshal Yutthaphong Kittikhachon, former chief of the Armed Forces Air Operations Department, told THE NATION that the allies had made a good decision in launching the air attacks against Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

He said that in desert geography whoever dominated the sky would win the war.

Yutthaphong said Iraq's Scud missile attack against Israel was an effort to turn Arab countries in the US-led alliance against the allies. It was feared that if Israel retaliated the war would spread beyond the present boundaries and could turn into a holy war between Muslim countries and Israel.

Also yesterday Deputy Supreme Commander Gen Phichit Kunlanawit quoted a visiting US military official as expressing confidence the war would not last long.

Phichit was speaking to reporters after a meeting with Lt Gen Teddy J. Allen, director of the US Office of Security Assistance.

The deputy military chief added that the United States did not ask to use Thai military facilities as logistics centres.

Phichit said he believed that the United States had good enough logistics operations and would not need this kind of support from Thailand.

Police Nationwide on 'Full Alert'

BK2001004391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jan 91 p A3

[Text] Police nationwide went on full alert and set up checkpoints throughout Bangkok in anticipation of terrorist attacks as war in the Persian Gulf escalated.

Police Director General Sawaeng Thirasawat told the press yesterday security precautions will be intensified in Bangkok to forestall terrorist attacks with bombs and other weapons.

Pol Gen Sawaeng said last night while inspecting security operations in Bangkok that hundreds of heavily-armed soldiers from the First Army Region have been deployed at the US, British, Israeli and Australian embassies on special security missions.

Director General of the Army Intelligence Department, Lt Gen Charan Kunlawanit, said while accompanying Sawaeng during the inspection that Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, in his capacity as internal security director, ordered the deployment. An informed source said nearly 100 soldiers had been stationed at the US Embassy alone.

Deputy police chief Pol Gen Manat Krutchaiyan, said police had been instructed to set up 60 checkpoints in the city and conduct random searches on motorists beginning at 9 pm last night.

The move followed a US government's warning yesterday of a possible terrorist attack in Bangkok during the next 48 hours against US interests, including airline offices, and those of other countries at war with Iraq.

Pol Gen Sawaeng said the US Embassy here received intelligence indicating a plan to carry out terrorist attacks on the diplomatic missions of the US, Britain, Israel and Australia and their airline offices.

Sawaeng said he had personally supervised security measures at various embassies and tourist spots frequented by Westerners in the capital as part of the security beef-up.

Sawaeng advised motorists to avoid parking their vehicles in the vicinity of embassies or residences of foreign diplomats to make it easier for police to provide protection. He also called on the public to notify police or call the special task force by dialing 191, if they come across suspicious persons or objects that could threaten public safety.

Sawaeng also said the intensified security measures would stand regardless of the situation in the Gulf or until further notice. There has been widespread concern that if Iraq lost the war, pro-Iraqi terrorists might retaliate by carrying out attacks worldwide, Sawaeng said. Sawaeng added that he has instructed police from the Crime Suppression Division, the Special Branch and the Metropolitan Police Bureau to increase the manpower and tighten preventive measures at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, its diplomats' residences and airline office.

The police chief said the instruction was issued after Saudi diplomats called on the Police Department to provide them more security and protection due to the war in the Gulf.

Pol Gen Manat said he has been assigned to provide security to diplomats from the United States and all American residents in Thailand to block any form of terrorism against them.

Apart from establishing the check-points, Manat said, officers from the Metropolitan Police Bureau and the Crime Suppression Division will also assign their personnel to provide tight security at the embassies of the belligerent nations in Bangkok.

Teams of policemen will also patrol the streets and the sois where pro-Iraq foreigners are living, such as on Pradiphat Road in Saphan Khwai area and in Soi Nana off Sukhumwit Road, according to Manat.

Manat said he was confident that police would be able to anticipate any disruption to public order and terrorism which might take place in the city.

The immigration police have also been instructed to tighten preventive measures during the Gulf war. "Any foreigner found to have illegally entered the kingdom will be deported," he said. He added that so far there have been no reports of Iraqi men illegally entering the country.

Referring to the Special Branch Division, Pol Gen Manat said, they have been instructed to keep a close eye on the activities of Iraqi residents and some groups of radical Muslims in country.

'Full Terrorist Alert' Continues

BK2201014591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Jan 91 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] The Government has received reports that overseas terrorists are hiding in "certain" places in Bangkok, Interior Minister Praman Adireksan said yesterday.

Gen Praman, speaking while inspecting security measures taken at a number of embassies in the city, said it was the duty and responsibility of police to take action. Asked if the hideouts of the suspected terrorists included certain embassies, Gen Praman simply said: "That's it. This is a matter for police to follow up and monitor. We have to follow up on the matter."

A top Thai security source told the BANGKOK POST on Saturday that security officials went on a citywide alert because American intelligence indicated that a number of weapons and ammunition were moved out of the embassy of an Arab country involved in the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the United States Embassy yesterday warned that its terrorist alert for Thailand should not last only 48 hours and should be extended until at least next Monday.

Following a warning from the State Department on Saturday that a "credible threat" existed for a terrorist strike in Bangkok against American and European targets, armed Thai troops were sent to the US, Israeli, British and Australian embassies. Security was also stepped up for other possible targets such as the airline offices of those nations.

The United States Information Service repeated in an additional statement that the US Government had received a "credible threat" involving possible terrorist action in Bangkok against Western installations, US and European airlines and their offices and places where foreigners congregate. The warning, issued on Saturday, to the effect that an attack could come within 48 hours, has been extended by several days. The warning will last until January 28, USIS said.

Meanwhile, Bangkok will remain on full terrorist alert despite the expiry at 5 p.m. yesterday of a 48-hour alert for terrorist attacks, Police Department Director-General Sawaeng Thirasawat said. Though the "deadline" had passed without incident, Gen Sawaeng said security forces would remain on red alert at embassies, airline offices and foreign installations.

Bangkok and other areas of the country have been on full alert since Friday, in response to a warning from the US Embassy in Bangkok. "The deadline passed at 5 a.m. but we're continuing with our maximum precautionary measures," Pol Gen Sawaeng said.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Embassy's information officer in Bangkok denied reports that it had declined a police protection offer. He said the Soviet Embassy also wanted police protection.

The Australian Government has also repeated its warning about the risk to Australians overseas due to terrorism or other politically motivated violence. The acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr Neal Blewett, said he believed the threat of terrorism had increased in the past few days. He urged Australians in Thailand to maintain a low profile and to avoid gathering in public places known to be frequented by Westerners.

Australians planning to travel abroad have been warned to take seriously the threats which have been made against nationals and assets of countries taking part in the United Nations multinational force trying to dislodge Iraqi troops from occupied Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Deputy Police Chief Gen Manat Krutchaiyan, who is directing the peacekeeping effort, held a meeting with the concerned agencies yesterday morning and inspected the current anti-terrorist operations. He said the operations were being carried out with no problems and there was no information pointing to a terrorist attack in Thailand as had been threatened.

The alert is being continued for American and European potential targets in both Bangkok and the provinces.

Gen Manat thanked Supreme Commander Sunthon Khongsomphong for sending armed troops to take part in the security measures at the four embassies in Bangkok.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said at a ceremony to open the Laem Chabang deepsea port in Chon Buri province that Thailand would continue to take precautions against terrorism and was already doing so when the warning was reissued. He added that he believed the war in the Gulf would not be drawn out because of the high technology and high destructiveness of the weapons being used. Thais in the Middle East were still safe and there had been no reports that any Thais were harmed by the war, he said.

Gen Chatchai said oil prices had not gone up and were coming down instead. Thailand's future was still bright, he said, adding that at least there would be a lot of work for Thai workers in the Middle East after the war.

Deputy Prime Minister Athit Kamlang-ek, who is responsible for security affairs, visited the Bangkok Peace Keeping Force and the Interior for briefing on their peacekeeping operations. Tomorrow, Gen Athit will also visit the Police Department, the Airport Authority of Thailand, and troops guarding the various embassies to observe the security situation.

Terrorist Threat 'Under Control'

BK1901113291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 19 (AFP)—The government said here Saturday that it had taken all necessary measures against threats of terrorism against Western targets in Bangkok.

Foreign Minister Athit Urairat gave the assurance in response to a warning from Washington of a "credible threat" of terrorist action in the Thai capital against U.S., Israeli, British and Australian installations in the next 48 hours.

("We believe it is related to the Gulf crisis," State Department spokesman Adam Shub said in Wahington.)

Following the Washington announcement, the U.S. Embassy here issued a warning urging Westerners to stay home and away from public places.

Mr. Arthit, reacting to the warning, said the government, the police force and intelligence units "have taken measures to cope with any incident."

"The situation is under control. Anybody who wishes to instigate this kind of incident has been watched by us all along, and we will not let such an incident occur," the minister said.

Thai police declined to elaborate on the remarks but stressed that protection of embassies of countries with a high profile in the Gulf war had been strongly reinforced. One special branch officer said police had been informed of a possible terrorist attack.

Western diplomats here refused to disclose the nature of the information which led to the U.S. announcement but said they were taking it very seriously.

"There has been no specific information that any specific flight has been targetted, but those who are travelling are advised to take this threat into consideration," the U.S. Embassy said in its warning.

"Also Westerners are advised to stay away from public places, especially those where they gather in large numbers such as big hotels, supermarkets, etc. Westerners are advised to stay at home and keep alert as much as possible," it said.

Mr. Arthit quoted the Iraqi ambassador here, Munir Shihab Ahmad al-Bayati, as saying earlier this week that Iraq would not sponsor terrorist attacks in Thailand. But Mr. Arthit added that an attempted attack "could be conducted by an individual and not a group supporting the Iraqi government."

On Friday in Jakarta, police defused a bomb in the compound of U.S. Ambassador John Monjo's residence, police and military sources said.

Troops Guarding Western Embassies

BK2101091491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Jan 21 (AFP)—Several foreign establishments here closed Monday as Western embassies, guarded by heavily-armed Thai troops, reiterated warnings of a "credible" terrorist threat.

Embassy officials said they were maintaining a high state of security, and advising their nationals to exercise vigilence.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said a warning issued Saturday of a "credible threat of terrorist activity" against Western and Israeli citizens and institutions in Bangkok over a 48-hour period would last "several days" longer. The warning, also issued in Washington and repeated by the Australian and British embassies here, urged Westerners to remain indoors and avoid public places, including supermarkets.

"We believe there is a credible threat against British organizations and the British community," a British Embassy official said, adding that Britons were advised to be as careful as possible "until this threat is over."

"There's no time limit. While things remains serious in the Gulf, we assume that this threat remains," an Australian Embassy spokesman said.

Employees of Bangkok's exclusive British Club said the club was closed as a precaution until further notice as of Monday after two telephone threats were received from a Thai-language speaker. "The girl who answered the telephone was very upset. The rough translation was... 'Be very careful between two and six o'clock,'" an employee said. British Telecom's Bangkok office was also closed, as well as three international schools, one of which has predominantly British pupils and another French students. The American University Alumni Association library was closed Monday and Tuesday for renovations, an employee of the educational institute said, adding that the U.S. Embassy announcement "is also part of it."

Hundreds of heavily-armed troops deployed at the Australian, British, Israeli and U.S. Embassies remained in place.

A military officer at Thailand's Supreme Command Secretariat acknowledged that the situation was being taken "seriously."

A senior Foreign Ministry official, Kopsak Chutikun, told reporters that he had warned the Iraqi ambassador, Munir Shihab Ahmed al-Bayati, on Sunday against staging terrorist attacks. "Should there be any terrorist attacks in Thailand, thus damaging the honor and prestige of this country, or injuring foreigners in Thailand, we would take it very seriously," Mr. Kopsak said he had told the envoy.

Mr. Al-Bayati responded by reiterating an earlier pledge that Iraq would not sponsor acts of terrorism here. But the ambassador has also said that Baghdad would not be responsible for acts by individual terrorist groups. [passage omitted]

Daily on 'Rash' of Bomb Threats

BK2201020991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] A rash of bomb threats and hoaxes has hit Bangkok, and many foreign establishments stayed closed yesterday as the US State Department extended its warning of a terrorist threat to Western interests in Thailand.

The State Department extended its terrorist alert from the previous 48 hours to "several days". It said the new warning would be effective until Jan 28.

Bangkok oil refinery and the Shell Oil Co depot in Chongnonsi as well as the Bangkok branches of two foreign banks were among the establishments that received bomb threats yesterday. Claims that bombs had been planted at the locations turned out to be hoaxes.

Police sources said that two small bombs went off harmlessly in Phlapphlachai area last Friday night and Saturday afternoon. One of the bombs was planted in a public phone booth and the other at a parking lot.

The sources said it was not immediately clear whether the explosions, which caused only slight damage, were related to the war in the Gulf. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombs, which preceded the US warning, and there has been no official police report on the incidents.

Phra Khanong police yesterday set up checkpoints in front of the Bangkok oil refinery, in an eastern Bangkok suburb, after it received a bomb threat over the phone. A similar threat was also made against the Shell oil depot where security was subsequently stepped up.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp received a call on Sunday from an unidentified caller who left a message in Thai on the answering machine stating that a bomb would go off at 2.30 pm on Monday. Jonathan Truslow, the operations manager of the bank, said a team of police searched the entire building of the bank office on Silom Road but found no bomb. Truslow said security at the bank was doubled as a result.

The Bank of America also received a similar threat yesterday at about 3.30 pm. Gene Dejeasus, senior credit officer, said the bank had taken precautions. "We can't decide whether it is a hoax or not, but we cannot be complacent," he said.

The threat prompted an evacuation of the building on Wireless Road. Police said the threat was made in an unidentified phone call to the operator claiming that a bomb would go off at 10.00 pm. A search conducted by police at the bank found nothing. [passage omitted]

British Telecom's Bangkok office was also closed, as well as three international schools—the International School of Bangkok, Ruam Rudi International School and Bangkok Phatthana School. [passage omitted]

3 'Suspected Terrorists' From Mideast Arrested

BK2201023691 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 22 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] On operations concerning suspected terrorists, our reporter was informed by an eyewitness yesterday that in the early afternoon a car of the Crime Suppression Division with about 7-8 policemen dressed in civilian attire, as well as a Benz and a Peugeot, arrived and parked in front of the Middle East Hotel, Soi Nana, off Sukhumwit Road. After that, three Middle East men—two Iraqis identified as Mahmoud and Mohammed and an unidentified Jordanian—were taken to the police car before it left the hotel.

It is assumed that police arrested the suspects for involvement in the current conflict in the Middle East, because the three men, who have been in Thailand for more than two months, have verbally expressed strong support for Saddam Husayn, especially Mahmoud who had given a television interview on his opinion about the war in the Middle East the day the war broke out.

Police Hunt 'Suspected' Iraqi Terrorist in North

BK2101041191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Chiang Mai—Police are looking for a suspected Iraqi terrorist believed to be hiding in this northern province.

The suspect, identified as Husen Kamen Ibrahim, 31, was believed to be one of three men wanted in the Philippines for the bombing of an embassy before the Gulf War broke out on January 17, police said. The Iraqi arrived on a Pakistani airliner in Thailand on January 7.

Special Branch police in Bangkok had been looking for the suspect for days before he was believed to have gone north.

Government Warns Iraqi Envoy Against Terrorism

BK2101020691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Jan 91 p A1

[Text] Thailand told Iraq yesterday that any terrorist act committed by pro-Iraqi elements on Thai soil would affect relations between the two countries, a senior official of the Thai Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry conveyed the message to the Iraqi ambassador to Thailand as the army and police went on maximum alert following a warning by the US government on Saturday of a possible terrorist attack in Bangkok during the next 48 hours against US interests and those of other countries currently at war with Iraq.

Foreign Minister Arthit Urairat said the "48 hours" cited by the Americans ended yesterday evening. "But it doesn't mean we will relax our security," he said. He said he did not expect an act of terrorism to be staged in Thailand because the country had not done anything that can be seen as adversarial to one party or another involved in the Gulf war.

In Canberra, Australia's Defence Minister Robert Ray confirmed yesterday that US intelligence sources had warned the Australian government of a serious terrorist threat to its nationals in Bangkok.

Speaking on the television current affairs programme Sunday, Ray said that as a result security at the Australian Embassy in Bangkok had been stepped up and Australian tourists in Thailand were urged to be cautious. Asked if intelligence information described the possible attack would cause "extreme carnage," Ray said, "I would not put it in those terms, but it is a serious threat."

Kopsak Chutikun, an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, quoted Monir Shihab Ahmed Al-Bayati, the Iraqi ambassador to Thailand, as reaffirming his earlier pledge that his government did not support any terrorist activities in Thailand. Kopsak said he phoned Al-Bayati yesterday morning to tell him that "Thai leaders would not take it lightly," if any pro-Iraqi elements staged terrorist acts on Thai soil.

Heavily armed troops, supported by machinegun-mounted jeeps, continue to provide security yesterday at the embassies of the United States, Britain, Australia and Israel. The soldiers, in jungle fatigues and carrying assault rifles, also went on foot patrol around the premises.

Police also stopped cars at checkpoints set up on roads leading to these embassies to search for arms as part of the stepped-up security.

Suchinda on Security Measures for Terrorism Alert

BK2001153391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Interview with Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun, in his capacity as commander of the Capital Security Command, given to unidentified newsmen—recorded; place, date not given]

[Text] [Suchinda in progress] We are coordinating with the police on security precautions for foreign embassy premises. We have arranged security guards and patrol service for them according to the kind of help they want.

[Reporter] Will soldiers continue providing the service after the 48-hour deadline?

[Suchinda] This depends on the situation. We may pull the troops back if there are no more problems. It is up to the internal security director.

[Reporter] Many people feel that threats of sabotage and terrorism have been spreading.

[Suchinda] Anybody can carry out acts of sabotage, not necessarily a nation. Simple terrorist groups can spring attacks.

[Reporter] Do you think that the war will expand in scope?

[Suchinda] I do not think it will expand.

[Reporter] Are there any special security measures for the airports?

[Suchinda] Yes, and everywhere, including in the provinces and consulates. Anyway, we cannot guarantee that there will be no robberies; we are trying to prevent robberies. We are trying to do our best.

[Reporter] Do you have any worries?

[Suchinda] There is nothing to worry about.

Foreign Minister on Gulf War, Terrorism Threat

BK1901154791 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Athit Urairat today held a press briefing on the Middle East crisis. He told the media that Israel could be dragged into the war. The assessment by the U.S. Defense Department on the first attacks on Iraq indicated that the war might not end as quickly as expected, but might last for some time. The foreign minister is concerned that the war might expand. He said that, since yesterday, there has been a concensus among countries that diplomatic efforts should continue to prevent the war from spreading and to end it quickly. In other words, there must be an attempt to persuade Iraq to compromise and withdraw its troops from Kuwait under the UN resolutions. There must be an attempt to prevent attacks on Israel aimed at involving a third country in the war. Other countries must try to keep Israel from retaliating in order not to change the image of the war, as that would only bring a catastrophe and make things uncontrollable.

The foreign minister said there is a view that the problem should be immediately addressed at the United Nations to find a peace settlement. The appeal from many countries has given weight to the proposal. This is the only option at present through which we can hope for peace. He therefore renewed his appeal for a joint effort to settle the problem through peaceful means.

Concerning a warning by the U.S. Information Service about a threat of terrorist attacks in Bangkok, to be directed against foreign installations of the countries involved in war, namely the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom, Australia, and U.S. airline offices, the foreign minister said that precautionary steps had been taken by Thailand to prevent such incidents. There should be no worries.

The foreign minister said he had received a message from the Thai ambassdador in Rome, who is also in charge of Israel, telling him that embassy officials had evacuated Thai nationals to safe areas far from possible attacks. Officials as well as leaders of Thai groups have made great sacrifices in helping their compatriots during the crisis. Those in safe places offered help to other Thai nationals fleeing danger areas. The foreign minister has sent messages to the Thai people in those countries stressing to them the concern from and steps taken by their government to help them. Those Thai nationals have been asked to conform to authorities for their own safety.

Foreign Minister Athit Urairat then answered questions from newsmen concerning the report of a threat of terrorist attacks in Bangkok against installations of countries involved in the war. Asked how Thailand was preparing to cope with the threat, the foreign minister said that a report to that effect had been received for quite some time, and that precautionary measures have already been taken. Concerning the U.S. Embassy's warning to American citizens, he said the security alert was the concern of the U.S. Embassy for its people. As for Thailand, he said that concerned agencies, including the National Intelligence Agency, the Police Department, and the Security Service, have taken strict measures to prevent the attacks. The foreign minister said authorities are in control of the situation. The government will not allow terrorist attcks to take place. The foreign minister believed there would be no terrorist attacks here because the Iraqi ambassador to Thailand once pledged to him that there would be no terrorist attacks in Thailand.

Interview With Foreign Ministry Official on Gulf

BK2001095191 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 3 in Thai 0710 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Interview with Kopsak Chutikun, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry and chief of the Ministry's Ad Hoc Operations Center on the Gulf War, by an unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] According to reports sent to the Foreign Ministry, what is the latest on the general situation and the situation concerning Thai workers?

[Kopsak] Well, concerning the general situation, fighting continues, especially air raids. The good news is that Israel has not retaliated against Iraq. The Foreign Ministry really praises Israel for restraining from retaliation against Iraqi attacks because Israeli retaliation, if any, would expand the scope of war. We are therefore appealing to all parties to use restraint so that the scope of the war is not expanded. Countries not involved should not be dragged into the conflict started by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Other countries which are not directly involved in this issue should not be dragged into the war.

[Announcer] Your excellency the ambassador is known to be very keen about the Middle East situation. In your opinion, do you think the war will become more violent and prolong?

[Kopsak] It is difficult to make that kind of an assessment at present. According to a U.S. Defense Department report, air operations will continue until February before ground troops will be sent in to retake Kuwait. This is a military and tactical assessment. Concerning Thailand, we are far from the war and are not directly involved in the war, so what we are doing now is monitoring the fighting from a distance. Concerning the question whether the war will end quickly, all we can do is appeal to all countries to try to use restraint and not to expand the scope of the war. Meanwhile, we want diplomatic efforts to continue. Although the war has already broken out, that does not mean we have to give up on diplomatic efforts. Diplomatic efforts should continue under the framework of the United Nations and the UN Security Council. Our foreign minister has already met with the envoys of the three world powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, and France. Tomorrow he will meet the Chinese and Brisish ambassadors to lobby for diplomatic approaches to stop the war—to find a peaceful solution through diplomatic channels. Anyway, fighting will continue, but if Israel does not retaliate the scope of war would be limited to Iraq and Kuwait.

In Thailand, we have made preparations in all aspects, and everything is now organized concerning domestic impacts, economy, oil, and the cost of living. We have set up agencies to cope with emergencies. On the question of terrorism, agencies in charge of security are working stringently. This morning I spoke with the Iraqi ambassador on the telephone, and I reminded him of the promise he gave us—that there would be no terrorist action in Thailand. I told the Iraqi ambassador that Thailand considers this matter a priority. Should there be any terrorist attacks in Thailand, thus damaging the honor and prestige of the country, or injuring foreigners in Thailand, we would take it very seriously. The Iraqi ambassador acknowledged our stance and dismissed any involvement by the Iraqi Embassy in case of terrorism. Well, we will see. Meanwhile, our security units are taking stringent measures, and we are confident, at a certain level, that we should be able to keep the situation under control.

Generally speaking, the Ad Hoc Operations Center views that preparations made by government agencies to deal with the impact of the war, such as oil supplies, prices of goods, terrorism, and other aspects, are well organized. Now we only have to follow the developments at a distance. We try to monitor impacts on Thai workers in the Middle East. On this, we have several agencies in charge, especially the Labor Department which has sent officials to look after Thai workers in Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East. The Foreign Ministry is also monitoring developments at a distance in order to intervene if problems arise; if we need to negotiate with the local governments or authorities concerning movements of Thai workers; and if we need permission to transport our nationals from one country to another—for example if we need visas or border permits. Anyway, this is the concern of the Interior Ministry, and the Labor Department has been performing its duties superbly. Thai nationals are well taken care of and all our men in the Middle East are safe. Those who are in risky zones will be evacuated to Thailand, especially those in Jordan. Those who have already came out of Iraq will be flown to Thailand via Cairo. All agencies are cooperating well. The medical teams from the Public Health Ministry already started their mission. They held a meeting in Riyadh this morning to plan missions for medical teams to be sent to various centers in Saudi Arabia. More are being sent. The Commerce Ministry, meanwhile, will have its commercial attaches monitor the situation in Israel.

[Announcer) Well, I think we have got all the information we need. If there is any new development and if we want more information from the ambassador, we will contact the Foreign Ministry immediately.

[Kopsak] Yes, anytime, and at 2000 [1300 GMT] the foreign minister himself will join us at the center to reporting on the situation.

[Announcer] Thank you Ambassador.

Minister, Muslim Leader View Terrorist Threat

BK2101153891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] At noon today at the Interior Ministry, Interior Minister Police General Praman Adireksan and Prasoet Mahamat, Muslim spiritual leader in Thailand, jointly addressed newsmen. They said, in connection with reported possible terrorist action in Thailand following eruption of the Gulf war, the government has not ignored the matter and has ordered increased security for important government offices, for foreign embassies, and in the southern provinces where most of the population is Muslim. They noted that Muslim people normally cherish peace and never create disturbances, but foreign terrorists and people who harbor ill intentions toward the country could create incidents that would tarnish their reputation.

Prasoet said having continuously followed the Gulf war, he thinks the conflict will end soon and peace will be restored to the world. He said Thai Muslims are well educated and know what is good and bad. He said the current war is not a holy war. Muslims in Thailand should remain peaceful. He does not believe any effort to foment a holy war will be successful. He said so far there have been no activities by the provincial Muslim communities, and therefore he does not think any terrorist incident will occur in Thailand.

Students Protest Gulf War Outside U.S. Embassy

BK2101044191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Ten Ramkhamhaeng University students held a protest against the Gulf War in front of the US Embassy yesterday.

The students, claiming they represented the "Mahachon Party," handed a letter addressed to President Bush calling for an end to the war to an embassy official. It said the Iraq-Kuwait conflict should be settled among Arabs, and the US use of force under UN resolutions was interfering in Arab affairs.

The embassy official told the students the letter would be given to Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue, who would sent it to Washington. The students left shortly afterwards.

Meanwhile, Assistant Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit said yesterday he welcomed a prayer appeal for peace to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from Thai Muslims in the South. "Prayers are a way of offering moral support. But I believe Thai people who have practice Islam or other religions are patriotic," he said. He said Muslim religious leaders in the South had said there would be no problems from Muslims regarding the war.

British, PRC Envoys Visit Athit on Gulf Crisis

BK2101152891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] This afternoon, the British and Chinese ambassadors called on Foreign Minister Athit Urairat to thank the Thai Government for security protection for their embassies and personnel. The two ambassadors also exchanged views on solutions to the Persian Gulf crisis. At their discussions, the British ambassador expressed concern about the situation and the view that the war will end soon. The foreign minister shared the same view and urged all sides, especially Israel, to exercise restraint. The British ambassador said his country will try to keep Israel out of the war, and he felt that a solution should be found quickly before the situation escalates.

The Chinese ambassador informed the foreign minister that although his country abstained from voting on the UN Security Council resolutions concerned, China agrees with the call for withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait. China wants every side to restrain itself now that the war has erupted, and wishes to see a quick and peaceful solution to the problem. The foreign minister agreed with the Chinese ambassador's position and felt that a meeting should be convened under UN auspices to solve the Persian Gulf problem.

Muslim Radicals 'Fanning Hatred' for Saudis

BK2101084891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Pattani—Pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalists are fanning hatred among local Muslims for Saudi Arabia because of its participation in the allied war effort against Iraq, Muslim sources here say.

The agitators have passed out leaflets criticising Riyadh at several mosques, they said.

"The trend could be dangerous if the Gulf war drags on for a long time," and the agitators might be able to organise a protest against Saudi Arabia and the United States, one source said.

Local authorities are watching the fundamentalist group, a security officer here said.

The fundamentalists have been telling Muslims that the Saudis were collaborating with the Americans in attacking Islamic Iraq, he said. However, educated people seemed to understand the conflict and did not support the Iraqis, he said.

Meanwhile, provincial police superintendent Col Somphon Ongphalakan said yesterday that security has been provided for two Americans, two Frenchmen and two Englishmen who are teaching at Prince of Songkhla University here. Security had also been stepped up for government leaders and at the homes of Westerners.

Deputy Public Health Minister Den Tomina said he was worried that Arabs would declare a holy war if Israel attacks Iraq.

Foreign Minister Reports on Workers in Gulf

BK1801155191 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Athit Urairat gave a press briefing this afternoon to sum up the situation in the Middle East. He reported no death or injuries among Thai workers there from the ongoing war in the Persian Gulf.

In Israel, a target of missile attacks from Iraq, he reported as many as 2,000 Thai nationals working and living there, but no one was hurt. The Thai people have been evacuated from Tel Aviv to Eilat which is near the border of Egypt. Meanwhile, a group of 25 Thai workers hired by a Korean company has safely left Baghdad for Cairo. Thai workers in Jeddah, in large number, were reported in safe condition. Thai embassy officials in Baghdad have already moved to Ankara, Turkey. They were reported safe.

In Egypt, there was a report that authorities have stepped up security measures to prevent possible terrorism. In Saudi Arabia, a Japanese oil refinery near Kuwait has been a target of Iraqi missile attacks. About 100 Thai workers there were reported safe as they have already moved to the Hufuf center.

The foreign minister said that efforts are being made in order not to allow the scope of war to expand despite the fact that the allies enjoy an advantage over Iraq. There has been no retaliation from Israel, already hit by eight Iraqi missiles. The United States tried to prevent Israeli intervention in the war in a bid to achieve peace as many countries are still making efforts to settle the conflict peacefully.

The foreign minister reported on his meeting today with the Soviet ambassador to Thailand. He said that the Soviets shared a view that the United Nations should be given a role in solving the ongoing war by peaceful means. They hoped that the warring parties would not expand the scope of the war, and that they would consider the possible devastation of mankind. They believed the war should end soon since it is a UN sanctioned war, and that the status of the war would not change and the war would not be prolonged so long as Israel refrains from retaliating against Iraq.

Interior Ministry: Workers 'Safe'

BK1801154191 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Answering reporters' questions concerning the evacuation of Thai workers to reception centers in Saudi Arabia, Deputy Interior Minister Watthana Atsawahem said that some Thai workers had been evacuated to the reception centers. Those centers can accommodate about 50,000 people. Food, water, and transportation are available. Up to now, all Thai workers are reported to be safe. Officials concerned are continuously implementing the evacuation plan. Slight changes may be made in the plan in accordance with the situation. Labor officials can decide to change the evacuation plan as the situation suits them.

More on Nationals in Saudi Arabia

BK2201034891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Early this morning, Phaithun Hiranpradit, assistant to the chief of the Thai Information Office in Riyadh reported on the current situation in Saudi Arabia last night. [passage omitted]

A total of 55 Thai nationals moved into the evacuation center in Hofub yesterday, while 14 Thai workers stated their intention to leave the camp after having been called by their respective employers to resume work.

In the meantime, 423 Thai nationals stayed at the Hofub evacuation center.

Evacuation of Workers in Amman to Athens Planned

BK2101084491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST Supplement in English 21 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] About 144 Thais in the Jordanian capital of Amman will be evacuated to Athens via Cyprus, the Labour Department informed Deputy Prime Minister Gen Athit Kamlang-ek this morning. Gen Athit is chairman of the committee set up to help evacuate Thais from the Gulf.

The original plan to evacuate Thai workers to Cairo via the port of Aqaba was scrapped because hundreds of thousands of workers from several nations had jammed the port to take ferries to Egypt.

The labour officials coordinating the evacuation of Thai workers also were concerned that the Egyptian government might close Cairo airport. One labour official in Amman reported that he managed to assemble 83 Thais, 15 of them students, 40 women and 28 men. He said seven workers were expected to get seats on a flight today to Cyprus, where they might have to spend a few days until they were able to get a flight to Athens.

The Labour Department planned to send more labour officials to Cyprus to arrange for the workers' evacuation. The department said several Jordanian employers were annoyed that the workers, who earlier informed them they would continue working in Jordan, had changed their mind when the Gulf war erupted. Many employers refused to pay expenses for the workers whose contracts were still valid.

In Cairo, 27 Thai workers from Iraq were still stranded, waiting to catch flights to Bangkok. The official said 22 Thai workers were waiting to cross by ferry from Aqaba to Egypt.

Though the Gulf war has not directly affected Bahrain, the labour official said employers there had doubled wages for foreign workers to persuade them to stay. The airport in Bahrain which was closed when the war began, was expected to open next Saturday, the official said.

Vietnam

Further Reaction to Events in Persian Gulf

Remaining Nationals To Leave

BK1901062091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Immediately after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, under the close guidance of the Council of Ministers, various responsible organs of our country, since August 1990, have been taking various emergency steps to bring home our workers from Iraq. With wholehearted assistance from various international organizations, as of 17 January 1991 approximately 13,000 workers had been sent home safely.

According to a report from the Vietnamese Embassy in Iraq received on the evening of 18 January, there are now 951 Vietnamese workers in Amman, Jordan waiting to be flown home. Those Vietnamese workers remaining in Iraq are still safe and calm. The Vietnamese Embassy is, in coordination with various international organizations, making urgent arrangements for them to leave Iraq as early as possible.

'Never Too Late To Negotiate'

BK1901142491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 19 Jan 91

[NHAN DAN 19 January commentary: "The Gulf War Should End Immediately"]

[Text] The war in the Persian Gulf—a critical area in several respects—is full of complex contradictions and contains extremely great dangers to all nations. It might spread out on a larger scale and with higher intensity to destroy world peace and cause serious consequences not only to the Middle East region, but also to other regions on earth. Furthermore, it would have a very complicated impact on the world economy and the security and normal life of nations.

Proceeding from such awareness, since the very outbreak of this danger, our government and people together with large numbers of peoples of countries on earth have expressed their stand in settling the Gulf issue through peaceful negotiation and called on all sides to place the interests of peace and common security above everything.

Man is now at a point full of ordeals. He should quickly extinguish the flame of disaster. Common sense and reason do not accept a settlement by war but request all sides to come to their senses and hold a dialogue together in the interests and for the security of all nations. It is never too late to negotiate.

SRV Red Cross Urges Halt to War

BK2001053091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] On 19 January 1991, the Vietnam Red Cross Association issued a statement on the Gulf war as follows:

The Gulf war erupted at 0000 GMT on 17 January 1991 against the will of the world's people. Together with its 3.5 million-strong membership, the Vietnam Red Cross Association expresses deep concern over the casualties and injuries caused by bombs and shells to innocent civilians, including women, children, the elderly, and foreign nationals.

The war in our country has prompted far-reaching consequences. Therefore, we show deep sympathy for anyone or any nation involved in a fierce war at such a historic point—when technology has reached a modern level.

It is our association's wish that for humanitarian reasons, the parties involved quickly put an end to hostilities and continue their peaceful, fair, and rational talks to save the peoples of the countries involved from suffering and desolation.

Giap Discusses Gulf War With Indian President

BK2001141891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] General Vo Nguyen Giap, who is currently visiting India, held talks with President Venkataraman in New Delhi on 19 January. Both sides discussed the Gulf war situation and other regional issues.

Indian officials said that President Venkataraman and General Vo Nguyen Giap expressed concern over the consequences of the war, which will affect developing countries. Both leaders expressed the hope that the war will be ended soon.

Concludes Visit 20 Jan

BK2101100491 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 21—General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, left New Delhi yesterday concluding his official visit on the occasion of India's nationwide celebrations of the late Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary.

During this visit, General Vo Nguyen Giap and his wife were received by Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman on January 19 who expressed his joy at the important achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation cause and affirmed India's readiness to share her experiences on the economic, scientific and technological fields with Vietnam.

Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma and his wife gave a reception in honour of General Vo Nguyen Giap and his wife.

Earlier the University of Calcutta in West Bengal presented Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap with the diploma of honorary doctor of literature.

General Vo Nguyen Giap also called on Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar to whom he expressed his thanks for the Indian Government and people's activities in celebration of Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary.

Prime Minister C. Shekhar reiterated India's policy of further strengthening the friendship and broadening the multi-faceted cooperation with Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and of peace in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

USSR Envoy on Gulf Peace Efforts, Baltics

BK2201035791 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin said that the Soviet Union will do all it can to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully. Stating at a press conference in Hanoi last weekend, the Soviet ambassador also spoke of the tense situation in the three Baltic republics of the Soviet Union, especially in Lithuania. He affirmed that the tension in Lithuania resulted from Lithuanian Supreme Soviet and state offices' laws in the resolutions which ran counter to the Constitution of the Soviet Union and of Lithuania as well, and which also violated citizen's rights and freedom. He described a joint appeal to the UN general secretary by Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, and Estonia as a gross challenge to the Soviet state offices and an act against the spirit of the UN Charter.

IAEA Sponsors Meet on Nuclear 'Instrumentation'

BK1901152491 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 19—An advisory group meeting on regional cooperation in nuclear instrumentation maintenance was opened in Dalat, the central highlands province of Lam Dong, on Jan. 16 under the sponsorship of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with the Vietnam National Atomic Energy Commission and the Dalat Nuclear Research Institute.

Besides Vietnamese participants the ten-day meeting, the first of its kind in the country, draws delegates from Sri Lanka, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Turkey, Malaysia, Argentina, Germany and the IAEA. It is presided over by J. Dolnica, IAEA representative, and will review the past activities and achievements in regional cooperation in nuclear instrumentation maintenance and design a scheme for further cooperation.

Thanks to IAEA assistance, isotope output produced in Vietnam in 1990 increased by 12 times over that in 1985.

VPA General on Troops' Living Standards

BK1901040191 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Jan 91 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General Nguyen Trong Xuyen, member of the party Central Committee, vice minister of national defense, and chief of the General Department of Logistics: "Struggle in 1991 To Firmly Maintain and Stabilize Troops' Living Standard"]

[Text] Our Army—an army by the people and for the people—has been led, educated, and trained by the party and assisted and brought up by the people. In recent years, along with paying close attention to the development of the all-people national defense system and the People's Armed Forces, our state has exerted great efforts to ensure that our troops' living standard is based on the system of supply according to the quantity and norm prescribed for each recipient. No matter what the system or mode of supply is, the responsibility of the logistics sector is to ensure that materials are delivered to cadres and combatants on schedule and in accordance with the prescribed quantity and quality. These are the principles and objectives of logistics work.

To conform with changes in the country's economic mechanism, last year the General Department of Logistics actively studied ways and suggested that the Ministry of National Defense renovate the mode of supply. After a decision was made by the ministry, the sector quickly instructed the entire Army to switch the system of supplying in kind from the higher echelon—that is based on one fixed price and on the method of "receiving from the higher to supply to the lower echelon"—to the system of supplying in cash, which is commonly called "monetization." This mode of supply on the basis of "monetization" is applied to regiment and brigade levels, while units from battalion level downward are supplied in kind under the one-tier pricing system.

After one year of applying the new mode of supply, despite some existing difficulties and shortcomings, the results obtained have affirmed the correctness of this mode in both contents and measures.

Fund management can now meet 100 percent of all expenditures. In the past, it used to meet only 20 percent, while the state had to cover 80 percent. As a result, various units still can afford to make expenditures when they receive post-dated checks or when they are not given cash on schedule.

Therefore, units have signed contracts to tap the local sources of commodities and ensure a better quality of grain and other foodstuffs at reasonable prices. In some localities, grain and other food products can be bought at prices lower than the prescribed basic food allowances. As a result, units can improve troops' living conditions, regulate meals of all days in the month, and reduce losses of commodities which result from going through many intermediary links and waiting long for shipments. The relationship between suppliers and purchasers (troops) is equal. The former situation of arbitrary grading and pricing of commodities when subsidies were still used no longer exists. Particularly, units no longer need relief rice like they did in 1989.

The troops' diet can be said to be more substantial and better in 1990 than in 1989. Its practical standards can be rated at 80-90 percent and even up to 100 percent of the prescribed standards for some units.

Increased production has helped considerably in making food products available on the spot to supplement the troops' diet. Although complete statistics on the results of troops' efforts to build and consolidate barracks and produce construction materials are not yet available, tens of billions of dong have been involved. In 1990, troops afforested nearly 1,000 hectares of land.

Managerial tasks have taken shape and close coordination between logistical and financial sections has been operationally controlled and supervised by unit commanders through the units' pricing boards. As a result, negativism because of differences in the former two-price tier have been reduced and losses of grain, food products, and food allowances have been limited. Cadres and combatants are now well aware of the criteria and the true material values they are enjoying.

The responsibility of unit commanders has been enhanced and the relations between the logistical and financial sections have become closer, which allows for alleviating the cumbersome machinery and reducing the storage space, gasoline consumption, and transport facilities.

But work is still slow and unsatisfactory in some respects, especially in renovating the insurance and management procedures to suit the new situation.

Loose managerial control, which is still noted in some units, has led to corruption, waste, difficulties, and unimproved living conditions in units. Some units along the northern border, in the Central Highlands and eastern Nam Bo, which are stationed far from the populous areas, have not been able to practically secure troops' food rations and are still encountering many problems. Their clothing equipment is still poor, their mess and billeting facilities and their recreational instruments are still lacking, and medicines for combatants in primary units are still in short supply.

A rapid slide in prices is now the greatest problem in logistical work, which greatly impacts new supply procedures. Even though the state has compensated for losses in price increases, the compensation is still not commensurate to the supplied materials. With the state-supplied budgetary source, the Defense Ministry has given top priority to improving the troops' living conditions and settling policies concerning them. In some units, cases of embezzling food funds to defray other expenses are still noted.

But with its efforts to implement new logistical procedures last year, the General Department of Logistics was able to greatly reduce many of the consequences of receiving materials, of distribution and storage activities, and of maintaining transportation management for various units, thus enabling it to devote more time to inspecting and providing leadership and guidance for various units, to consider the revision and introduction of various logistics management systems and procedures, as well as the system of norms and quotas, and to cooperate with relevant organs to resolve difficulties so work can be implemented.

Considering the existing special economic situation, notably the limited 1991 national defense budget, and judging from difficulties encountered in 1990, it is certain that efforts to ensure logistics activities in 1991 will face acute difficulties which cannot be solved overnight. This is not to mention a possible eruption of major upheavals in price as well as in the flow of goods.

Under the strategic readjustment, although there has been a cutback in the total personnel strength of the regular forces, the number of troops in charge of maintaining logistics and ensuring the enforcement of policies still remain large.

To successfully implement the resolution of the party Central Committee's Military Commission and the instructions from the Ministry of National Defense governing the 1991 tasks, based on experiences obtained in 1990, the logistics sector and the entire Armed Forces should uphold their sense of responsibility and continue to perfect their logistics maintenance procedures so that it suits the economic mechanism of the state and the organizational structure of the Armed Forces.

They should strive to make every cadre and combatant realize the advantages enjoyed by and the difficulties now confronting the country and the Armed Forces, uphold a sense of self reliance, step up self-sufficient farm production, practice austerity, resolutely fight against waste, corruption, and bribery, concentrate the greatest efforts on ensuring that the welfare of troops such as messing and billeting facilities and clothing and medical requirements be maintained and prevented from falling below the 1990 level. Meanwhile, efforts should also be made to improve troops' welfare. In the immediate future, we should concentrate on the following:

—Providing training to the contingent of logistics cadres and combatants to improve their ethical quality, professional skills, and profound knowledge, ensuring that this is carried out in a dynamic, creative, and rational fashion practical to the actual situation of units concerned and in such a way as to rally the participation of a large number of cadres and combatants.

—Intensifying steps to maintain close control over the use of materials and funds in various quarters and over efforts to implement trade contracts, generate the source of goods, maintain prices and product quality, and ensure storage maintenance, and sales; guaranteeing the open-minded and democratic principles in distribution, ensuring that distribution is carried in accordance to standards and quotas. Precautions should be taken against negative indications of misuse or ineffective use of funds.

—Building and rationally renovating the system of standards and quotas and giving priority treatment to combat-readiness troops and those operating in remote areas full of difficulties and hardships.

—Continuing to divide labor, decentralize management, rationalize logistical strategy and campaign, and clearly determine the function, authority, and responsibility of logistical and financial agencies in distributing, securing, and managing logistical funds.

—Commanding those echelons to be placed under direct managerial control and firmly grasping units' logistical tasks.

—Satisfactorily organizing the task of increasing production on a scale and in a pattern which are relevant to the new mechanism, depending on the characteristics, capabilities, and strengths of each unit and the local conditions and mores while emphasizing on-the-spot production of grain and other foodstuffs, and building materials to improve troops' diet and stabilize their mess, billeting, and recreational facilities. Commanders and logistical officers of all ranks should exercise close managerial control to prevent the malpractice of taking advantage of the need to create sources of logistical assets and products, and improve the economy and troops' living conditions to engage in illicit trade or lend a hand to smugglers.

There will be many acute problems in 1991 which require all troops, especially the logistical branch, to strenuously, actively, and strongly develop the effectiveness of renovating logistical procedures. We should practice strict thrift, effectively manage and use all types of equipment and logistical facilities and materials, coordinate closely with all functional branches of the state, rely on the strengths of the national economy and the people to ensure the stabilization of troops' living conditions, qualitatively enhance the building of logistical branches, fulfill all logistical tasks, ensure combat readiness to fight, build the Army, train troops, engage in productive labor, and help perfect the political duty of the Army in 1991.

An Giang Committee Disciplines 13 Party Members

BK2201071891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The An Giang Province party standing committee just decided to discipline 13 party members of the district standing committees and of the grass-root committees for deciding to provide loans on fertilizer trading and business management at a loss, causing serious consequences.

Army General Comments on Law's New Points

BK0501091591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carries an article: "What Is New in the Law on Military Service Following Amendments and Supplements" by Senior Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep. The article stressed that the new points in the law are on the normal length of service for draftees, the extension of draft deferment to more people, the benefits of non-commissioned officers and enlisted men and so on. The author concluded that in order to implement the law well, it is necessary to publicize and propagate the law broadly among the people. Sectors at all echelons should, within the scope of their functions, scrupulously comply with the law and by-laws. If these tasks are performed well, good results will certainly be obtained in the implementation of the law.

Government Streamlines Administration, Cuts Pay

BK2201081991 Hanoi VNA in English 0735 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 22—The number of ministries and equivalent offices was reduced by 31, and nearly 20 ministers and over 30 provincial people's committee chairmen were replaced. This was announced at a meeting held here from January 18 to 21 by the government's Organization Cadre Committee on organizational work in 1990, and on the orientation and task for this work in 1991 and the following years.

The meeting, addressed by Nguyen Khanh, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, was informed that from mid 1987, the permanent administrative pay-roll of all public offices was cut down by 3.3 percent and each province or city reduced the number of departments of its administration by around 50 percent. Similar effect was also seen in the administrative offices at the district and equivalent levels.

Australia

Iraqi Envoy Predicts 'Heavy Price' for Gulf Role

BK2201103691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Iraq's senior representative in Europe, the ambassador to France, has warned that Australia will suffer because of our involvement in the Gulf war for years to come. 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hashimi was speaking at a deserted embassy building under heavy guard by the French police. Thirteen of his staff have just been deported. Lee Duffield questioned the ambassador about Australia's role in the Gulf:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hashimi] It is a very simple question. What in the hell is Australia doing in the Middle East in this mess? Where is the Australian interest that was attacked, that is going to get hurt as a result of what has happened in Kuwait? On the contrary, Australia is going to pay a very heavy price in the future for its participation in this war. There are no reasons. They have no reason to be there, none whatsoever. Why are they there? I do not know.

[Duffield] What do you think the answer might be?

[Al-Hashimi] Well, everyone is saying that the whole international community is against Iraq, [words indistinct] The United States only engineered the [laughs] [word indistinct] to Iraq. That means that the whole thing is an American game. We also ... [changes thought] Secretary Baker of the United States is visiting countries he never heard of, trying to get allies as he calls it, and visiting those countries carrying a stick in one hand and the carrot on the other—to use the stick where it is needed and the carrot where it is needed—in order to get what he called the coalition that he is so proud of.

[Duffield] You mentioned consequences for Australia through being involved in this war at the present time. What kind of consequences?

[Al-Hashimi] Consequences of economic interests, friendly relations, bilateral relations, oil industry relations, agricultural products. So, there are so many things Australia is going to lose because of this position.

[Duffield] Looking at what is happening today, we have the reports from Iraq that prisoners of war are going to economic and scientific installations. Is this the human shield?

[Al-Hashimi] This, I do not have any official statement or official declaration on the meaning. So, until I receive that information officially I cannot comment on it.

[Duffield] We have seen, though, the television reports of the POW's being paraded and interrogated in public. It is being said that that is a violation of the dignity and [words indistinct] humane treatment under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

[Al-Hashimi] Being paraded? I do not know about that.

[Duffield] How about public show?

[Al-Hashimi] Being interrogated on a public show—I have seen myself the Iraqi prisoners on American television doing exactly the same. They do not talk about the Geneva Convention, the way Israelis are treating the people of the occupied territory in Palestine. Now they are thinking about the Geneva Convention, and they remember that there is a Geneva Convention. This is a double standard of dealing with international law, which we are trying to refuse. [end recording]

Iraqi Treatment of War Prisoners Protested

BK2201061491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Australian Government has made a formal protest to Iraq over its threatened use of prisoners of war as human shields. The protest was delivered to Iraq's representative in Canberra, Mr. (Ershad Omran), who had been called in to the Foreign Affairs Department. [passage ommited]

Hawke Affirms Gulf Commitment in Parliament

BK2101063291 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr. Hawke, has told Federal Parliament the principles and laws established as a result of the Second World War are too precious to be bargained away to [words indistinct] for Iraq's president, Saddam Husayn. Moving a resolution affirming the Parliament's support for Australia's involvement in the Gulf War, Mr. Hawke said those principles upon which the United Nations organization was founded were important enough to fight for. The prime minister said while the last few days were a reminder of the terrible facts of war, Australia must be prepared for the worst.

[Begin Hawke recording] Australians should be willing to commit our forces to combat only in the highest cause and only as a last resort. This government believes, most fervently, that the cause which our forces now serve [words indistinct] nothing less than our highest aspirations and interests, and that we have committed our forces to combat only as a last resort. [end recording]

'Alert' at Bangkok Embassy, Citizens Warned

BK2001091091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Australia is continuing to maintain a serious alert on its embassy in Thailand after receiving information about a terrorist threat to Australians in Bangkok. The Federal Government yesterday warned all Australians in Thailand to take the threat seriously and maintain a low profile.

The defense minister, Senator Robert Ray, says a variety of protective measures have been taken in Bangkok and in several other embassies around the world. Senator Ray says the most serious threats of terrorist attacks against Australians would be overseas and embassies have been alerted.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government has upgraded its travel advice to Australians going overseas, particularly to Bangkok and Manila.

In Manila overnight a bomb believed to be destined for an American Government office exploded killing one of the Iraqi men carrying the device.

Communications Bases Seen as Terrorist Target

BK2001064291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Sydney, Jan 20 (AFP)—Australia has stepped up security at three communications facilities which a defence expert says were key in relaying information on the detection of Iraqi missile launches on Israel.

The bases, jointly operated by U.S. and Australian communications and intelligence specialists, would be prime targets for military or terrorist attack, but would also be hard to hit because of their remoteness.

One, at Nurrungar in south Australia, almost certainly beamed reports to Gulf forces of the first detection of the Iraqi Scud missile launches against Israel and Saudi Arabia, defence expert Professor Des Ball said.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke appeared to confirm the claim at a news conference later. Asked if they had played a central role in the detection of the Iraqi missile launches, Mr. Hawke smiled broadly and said, "You know I don't talk about the role of the facilities, but they are not irrelevent, let me put it that way."

Asked the same question Sunday, Minister for Defence Robert Ray said he would not go beyond Mr. Hawke's comment that the communications facilities were "not irrelevent."

A spokesman for the Defence Ministry said there was "a heightened state of vigilance" around all Australian military bases, but he declined to talk about the communications establishments.

Mr. Ball said Australia had upgraded perimeter security at all the joint facilities.

In a televised interview, Mr. Ball said the two other joint facilities, at Northwest Cape, in western Australia, and Pine Gap in the northern territory, also had an important role to play in the Gulf war.

Mr. Ball, a Canberra-based defence specialist and an expert on the communication bases, said their role was much more significant than that of the three Australian warships assigned to the multinational task force.

Nurrungar, staffed by about 500 Australians and Americans, monitors satellite signals through infra-red detection of launches before ground and air-borne radar.

Mr. Ball said this function could not be replaced if Nurrungar were "knocked out," and added that he could "not conceive" of Nurrungar failing to pick up satellite signals on the launches. He said satellites monitored by Nurrungar could pinpoint launch sites within "plus or minus three nautical miles (5.5 kilometers)."

This information would then be sent to U.S. forces through the coded defence satellite communications system. Staff and monitoring equipment previously concentrating on the Soviet Union had been switched to the Gulf, Mr. Ball said.

Northwest Cape in Western Australia, besides communicating with Australian navy vessels, was also passing on information to U.S. forces in the Gulf and at other bases.

And the Pine Gap base in the Northern Territory, he said, could help determine which Iraqi communications facilities had been knocked out through air attack by its ability to monitor Iraqi communications. Pine Gap would help determine whether chains of command had been broken in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, particularly between military leaders and field units, Mr. Ball said.

While there are hundreds of U.S. communications bases around the world, including in the Middle East, the Australian facilities were "up there near the top" in importance, he said. But other bases would make easier potential Iraqi targets than the Australian bases because of their remoteness.

Telecoms Has No Plan To Evacuate Workers

BK2101103091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Telecoms says its workers in Riyadh are safe after this morning's missile attack on the Saudi capital. Telecoms says officials have been in contact with the workers since the attack and that there is still no plan to evacuate the 105 workers and their dependents currently in Riyadh and Jeddah.

Telecoms has established a priority telephone system for those at the Australian residence compound with emergency lines available if the domestic system fails. The workers have been issued gas masks and have access to safe rooms.

'Missing' Journalist Reported 'Safe and Well'

BK2201061691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] An Australian freelance journalist reported missing in Baghdad has made contacts with his parents in Perth. Radio Australia's Perth Office reports that in a brief telephone call earlier this morning Bruce Cheesman told his father that he was safe and well and still in Baghdad.

Chessman was last seen by other foreign reporters in the bomb shelter of a Baghdad hotel just after the first allied air raids on Iraq.

Anti-War Demonstrations Held in Major Cities

BK1901065491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0646 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Sydney, Jan 19 (AFP)—The biggest anti-war demonstrations seen in Australia for almost 20 years jammed streets and snarled traffic in Australia's major cities Friday and Saturday.

Rallies in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane denounced the U.S.-led military action against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, and Prime Minister Bob Hawke for sending warships to the Gulf.

Protestors also condemned Israel for not negotiating a solution to the Palestinian problem, but did not refer to Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

In Sydney, a procession led by left-wing unions and peace groups stretched through the city to the Israeli consulate from the U.S. Consulate, where pacifists have maintained a vigil since last Wednesday.

A police estimate put the crowd at 10,000 while organisers and other observers estimated it at more than 30,000, but most agreed it was the biggest peace demonstration since the days of the Vietnam moratorium marches.

In Melbourne late Friday a crowd estimated by newspapers at 20,000 sang peace songs and hurled insults at what they called warmongers, including the Australian Government.

And in Brisbane, a crowd estimated by march organisers at 5,000 and by police at considerably less marked what they called an international day of protest.

Organisers said the turnout at the marches gave the lie to opinion polls which have consistently shown that most Australians support the decision of the government, backed by the opposition, to send ships to the Gulf.

Former left-wing Labor Minister Tom Uren, the only notable Labor figure involved in the demonstrations, told a rally outside the town hall: "We cannot solve problems by war. We must have a political solution to these problems."

Mr. Uren said economic sanctions against Iraq had not had enough time to work.

Mr. Uren has been savagely criticised by some of his former Labor colleagues for criticising the government during a visit to Baghdad to try to arrange the release of Australian hostages.

Protesters Rally at U.S. Consulate

BK1901063791 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Thousands of anti-war demonstraters have gathered in Sydney for a rally outside the American consulate. The peace protesters have demanded the withdrawal of Australian servicemen and an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf conflict. There have also been large rallies in other state capitals and in the national capital Canberra.

Minister 'Concerned' Over Latvian Situation

BK2201055191 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says Australia is concerned about the weekend killings of four people in the Latvian capital, Riga, where Soviet Interior Ministry troops stormed a government building.

[Begin Evans recording] We share the views of other Western nations that the use of this kind of force to resolve the issue in the Baltic states is not only comprehensively undermining momentum of the reform process in the Soviet Union but is also putting at risk the whole future [word indistinct] of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the West, including Australia. [end recording]

New Zealand

Prime Minister Rejects Military Role in Gulf

BK2201084891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Jan 22 (AFP)—The government will fund 10 civilian Red Cross medics in the Gulf, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said here Tuesday as parliament rejected a military role for New Zealand.

New Zealand has contributed two transport aircraft and a military medical team, already in Bahrain, and another military medical mission was announced Monday.

During the one-day emergency sitting of parliament, Mr. Bolger stressed that New Zealand's military could have played "a small but valuable role" in combat, adding that New Zealand's war effort should be "supportive and humane."

Tuesday's pro forma debate marked a historic shift in a country previously willing to go to war.

New Zealand has, since the Anglo-Boer war, participated in every major British military engagement, as well as the Vietnam War. By a quirk of time zones, it beat Britain in declaring war on Hitler in 1939.

Opening parliament, Governor-General Dame Catherine Tizard said cabinet ministers were aware many New Zealanders wanted to stick to their "long and honourable tradition of contributing to peacekeeping forces."

"There is no peace to keep, until peace has been made," she said in a speech written by the government. "Therefore (the government) has decided that New Zealand should play a modest but honourable role in the effort to make peace."

Defence Minister Warren Cooper criticised local protests over the country's involvement, saying New Zealanders sat "in an antipodean paradise... able to ruminate on this war, often not in objective terms."

In a public opinion poll for Television New Zealand last Saturday, 72 per cent supported the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, 19 per cent opposed it and nine per cent were undecided. Radio chat shows and letters to newspapers demonstrate no public willingness to join the battle.

Opposition leader Mike Moore urged the government to categorically rule out a combat role because "otherwise you risk being asked."

Fellow Labour member Michael Cullen said New Zealand was one of the few nations "in good standing" with all Middle East nations, adding that it was no longer "the Sparta of the Pacific" and should be involved in peacekeeping activities.

Former Prime Minister David Lange, who negotiated the release last year of New Zealand hostages in Iraq, denounced television's continuous war coverage as "an obscenity."

Mr. Lange criticised "carefully constructed shots so that you can admire precision with which the bomb goes through the air shaft" and inviting viewers "to imagine the total collapse of the body" and other graphic scenes.

Opposition member Jim Anderton, who leads the socialist New Labour Party, said the coverage was desensitising children to violence and he opposed a military role for New Zealand.

Meanwhile, New Zealand Association for Ayurvedic Medicine Spokesman David Lovell-Smith has asked the government for four million New Zealand dollars (2.3 million U.S.) to fund a mass [words indistinct] people meditated together for a week, the war would end, Mr. Lovell-Smith said, adding that he was awaiting a reply.

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